



New Decorative Village Sign - Have Your Say

The Parish Council has decided that the approach to the village by road would benefit from some enhancement. The thoughts are that a decorative village sign should be erected on one of the green triangles formed by road intersections. The most suitable position is considered to be on the grassed triangle at the 3 way junction of Coleorton Lane and Normanton Road, opposite the former off-licence, for those old enough to remember.

It is envisaged that the sign will be a wooden totem, mounted on a pole with the words 'Packington' clearly engraved. Similar wooden village signs can be seen at Measham outside the library and in the centre of Kirby Muxloe and also at Seagrave near Loughborough.

The subject of the engraving on the sign which surmounts the name of the village is normally a feature which can be closely associated with the village which it represents. In the case of Measham village this is a canal barge and at Kirby Muxloe a representation of Kirby Muxloe Castle. The initial thought for a subject matter to adorn the Packington village sign is a Shire Horse. Many village residents will be unaware that the Packington Blind Horse Stallion is recognised as the father of the Shire breed. He came from our village of Packington between 1755 and 1770. He was black and appears in the first 'Shire Stud Book' and large numbers of horses are descended from him.

Other thoughts for subject matter to adorn the village totem are the Domesday Book, in which Packington is mentioned, the Roundhouse lock-up, Holyrood Church and Packington Mill.

Residents are invited to comment on the proposal for a village sign and the Parish Council would welcome any ideas/contributions for suitable subject matter closely associated with the village. Any suggestions please send to the Clerk.

Alex Stretton
07936 359949
clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk



Shown is picture of Measham village sign with a collage of the Canal, narrow boats, 'Measham ware' teapot, colliery headstock and the Church.

The inaugural Great Packington Pumpkin Hunt 2020 was held on Saturday 31st October. Over 30 houses took part from all over the village. The hunt gave children the opportunity to participate in Halloween but in a safe manner. Many children were seen with their parents looking for the pumpkins. The attention to detail shown by houses was brilliant.



Hopefully the pumpkin hunt will become a regular fixture in the Packington social calendar and that next year more houses will take part. Thanks to all those who went hunting and the houses who helped make it such a great event.

Thanks for your support on this and I am sure I will be in touch in the future.

Antony Cash

Planning Applications

As you will have read elsewhere, the application for three houses in Drum and Monkey Lane has been approved, despite the opposition by the Parish Council.

STOP PRESS

There is another application that will cause concern to the village.
20/01380/FUL

To all residents from the Parish Council.

If you feel concerned about this proposed development in the countryside, please write or email the NWLDC Planning Development Control at development.control@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Planning Dept, North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Coalville LE67 3FJ

It is planning application for 3 Log Cabins along Coleorton Lane and is where a new tarmac drive has been placed.

You can visit the NWLDC Planning application site to view the details. https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/view_planning_applications

Please only use legitimate planning reasons in your response.

Reply ASAP before 1st December

Residents may be interested to know that Planning Applications, with a location map, affecting Packington can be viewed via the Parish Council website

www.packingtonpc.org.uk/planning-apps.html

Just some of the comments posted on Facebook about this Halloween Pumpkin Hunt

- 'Trail was great! Some of the houses are decorated amazingly'**
- 'Thanks everyone! Brilliant effort, Hallowe'en was saved this year. My kids had so much fun'**
- 'Wonderful idea! Can't wait to do it again next year'**



Toilet Twinning Success

Last year we announced that our Houses had independently chosen a charity to support and that they each wanted to raise £60 so they could pay for a toilet for a family or community and 'flush away' poverty as part of the toilet-twinning scheme. We were so proud recently to present every class with a Toilet Twinning certificate. Pupils worked hard in their Houses to raise the funds to provide a latrine to a community without a toilet and now communities in Malawi, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe & Honduras all have a toilet down to their hard work. Well done!



Building Work Completed!

You may be aware that we have been having building work since the end of summer to create a new room in school. The work was completed over the half term holiday and we are very pleased to get the grounds back to normal for the children. We are waiting for furniture to arrive but staff are already excited about this new space which can be used for small group work, meetings and one to one sessions. We are also happy to have a full-sized hall again and have been able to recommence our hot school meals this week.

Our Church Community Gives Our Pupils its Virtual Support

Thanks to the hard work of Rev. Vivien, the Woodville Team and Open the Book the pupils are once again experiencing their visits in our collective worship through their specially prepared video presentations.

It's wonderful to work together with our community!

DFE Grant to improve Our Connectivity

I'm delighted to tell you that we have been awarded a Rural Gigabit Connectivity grant to upgrade our broadband infrastructure as part of a collaborative project rolled out by The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the DFE. It's a project for rural schools and it will help improve the speed and reliability of our internet and, hopefully, reduce costs. It may also help improve connectivity in our local community, which would be good news. We are now waiting to find out what happens next.

Poppy Sales

We managed to still support the Poppy appeal this year by selling Poppies and other merchandise in the playground in a socially distanced manner. Thank you to all the children who volunteered to help with this. We were delighted to receive this message: 'Dear Headteacher, Thank you very much for helping with our appeal. £167 was collected at your school. Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work. Yours sincerely.'



Coming up: We will be dressing up 'Wild, Bright & Bold' for a small donation to support Children in Need on Friday 13th November & will be kicking off our anti-bullying week with an Odd Socks day on Monday 16th November.

Carol Price Headteacher 01530 412425



The Memorial Hall has again closed for this month's Covid Lockdown but is prepared to open when we are told it's safe to do so. The exceptions are only for Children's Education classes and as there are two of these, each with only a single student we are accommodating them in the meeting room.

About this time of year my attention is drawn to the Christmas trees and decorations at the front of the Memorial Hall. We are planning to go ahead as usual and propose the following;

1. Last week in November to erect two Christmas trees with lights and baubles;
2. To erect extra lights at the front of the Hall;
3. Residents to prepare their own front lights for the BIG SWITCH ON
4. Switch these on at the same time as everyone else in the village who has lighting at the front of their house;
5. To play Christmas Music on loud speakers to the whole village immediately after switch on time.

Let's make this an occasion and remember to stay socially distanced and chat with neighbours from a distance. It just might feel like an event and we have been very short of these this year!!!!

**Saturday 5th December
At 6pm**

So, let's Get Ready

**Chris Miles, Hall Chairman
01530 414378**

Urgently Required

Booking Secretary for the Memorial Hall

This is an important role to maintain the use of the premises. Many of the bookings are long term and require little input. There is a computerised booking system in operation and a laptop and mobile phone are provided.

Please contact Treasurer for more information.
Robin Dixon
01530 412465

YOUTH CLUB Volunteers needed

As you are aware, Youth Club is still not running due to the current Covid restrictions. In order to resume in January 2021, we are currently seeking volunteers to help with running the sessions. If anyone feels that they are able to offer their time, each Monday 6-7pm during term-time, then please contact for further details. Sallie-Ann Stretton
sallie.stret@gmail.com

October was a bleak month for the village when we heard that the Bull & Lion was closing down. "It is with sad and heavy heart that we have taken the decision to leave the Bull and Lion. We thank all of our customers and feel we can't be ourselves with all these new rules and wearing a mask.

It has been tough times and would have liked some more support from the locals of Packington who don't seem to use us' Being a local business we rely on local support. However, we do thank our loyal supporters of the Bull and Lion.

Once again, we thank you for your support god bless. Thanks Bull and Lion team"

Darren, Jan, Luke and Emily

Pippa David, Interviewer turned interviewee

Molly Brammall writes:

Pippa David, as I'm sure many of you know, has been a loyal member of the Packington Post for around 3 years now. Her responsibility usually includes carrying out interviews, providing the post with quality and relevant stories. However today, the roles have been reversed and it is Pippa's turn to provide the story, which she did so beautifully.

Let's hope she doesn't mind us saying, but being in her late 50s, Pippa is an inspiration to all of us with her achievements over the years. Starting out at art college, where she spent her time working with metal, Pippa was led to her hobby of blacksmithing which she links into her passion for gardening. Ornaments, plant supports and garden screens are just a few of the items Pippa welds and in the coming years she hopes to begin selling in order to raise money for cancer research.



On the topic of raising money, Pippa equally spends her time competing in marathons in which all proceeds are donated to cancer research, specifically breast cancer.

Competing may not be the right term however as Pippa, or 'The Mighty Mole' as some may

know her, explained that the marathon running is much more about the experience. Instead of focusing on time or which position she will finish, in her own words, she gets the majority of her enjoyment out of 'meeting people at the back dressed as bananas'. Regardless of where Pippa finishes, she is remarkable as she managed to raise over £4000 last year when taking part in 6 marathons.

Due to Covid19, which has caused disruption to everyone's lives, Pippa explained the impact it has had on marathon participation. Having hoped to compete in another 6 this year, it was a real shame when they were unsurprisingly called off. Next year, in hope that normality somehow returns, Pippa explained that she is in fact looking to form a team for May 2021 for 'The Moon Walk' which would take place in London. This event which encourages fancy dress and costumes, would see Pippa dressed as a decorated bra, considering the money raised would be directed towards breast cancer research.

Again, like 2019, this would just be one of the 6 marathons Pippa wishes to complete in next year and the majority of her other earnings would hopefully be donated to children's cancer. This year however, as a result of Covid19, Pippa had to adapt and alter her plans. While she couldn't compete in places such as Vienna, Liverpool or Dublin, Pippa made the best of a bad situation and took it upon herself to complete the equivalent mileage from Lands-end to John O'Groats. Still hopeful to complete the remaining 399 of 874 miles after starting in July, Pippa trains tirelessly completing a half marathon every week! When asked if she recommends this hobby and this lifestyle, there was no hesitation. "Yes, 100%, it's the best fun," she exclaimed. Despite the back injury she is suffering with at the minute, which she believes has developed from her simultaneous blacksmithing hobby, Pippa perseveres, remembering that charity and giving to others is at the heart of her actions.

From the brief insight Pippa allowed me to have into her rather busy, athletic life, it clearly identifies her selfless nature and desire to better herself every day. Pippa David is a role model to many.

Molly Brammall

Harvest Festival in October went really well. We may not have been able to sing the harvest hymns and the decorations in church may have been less, but we were able truly to give thanks for all God's goodness. A big thank you to all who left harvest gifts – everyone was so generous this year.

Toys for local children in need

We were going to have a special toy service on 22nd November. However Lockdown means that we can't hold public services right now. We don't want children in need to miss out though. We still invite donations of toys (new). They will go to the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville for distribution to children who might not otherwise get Christmas presents. Can you help? Toys can be left in Joanne Dyer's porch in Packington Vicarage. Please don't wrap any toys up as the Marlene Reid Centre needs to see what toys they have so they can be distributed appropriately. However they do appreciate Christmas wrapping paper. **We need to receive the toys by December 1st.** It is an early collection so that the toys can be 'quarantined' before being distributed. This could be a very special year for children in need to receive a treat.

Christmas 2020

Our November services are all cancelled by reason of Lockdown. At the time of Packington Post's deadline, we cannot say what will be possible in December by way of Christmas services. We imagine numbers at services will still be limited even if the National Lockdown has ended, and that sanitising, no singing and social distancing will still be required. It's for these reasons we can't do any long term planning – very different from previous Christmases when we've been able to tell you about all sorts of things.

Please therefore, check our website for up to date details.
www.packingtonandnormantonchurches.org.uk

Lunch Club

During the time when the Hall was out of use, our cooks were thinking about the members of the Lunch Club. When it looked as if it might be possible to meet, socially distanced, the 'Girls' visited all the members, taking them a gift of favourite cakes and finding out if people wanted to meet up again.



This was very well received and they had various suggestions. It was obvious that members had missed seeing their friends. Sadly now, the Hall is closed for this sort of activity at the moment but I know the 'Girls' are hoping to check up on everyone before Christmas.

For any information contact:
Pauline 414378 or Rachael 413795

New Benches

The Parish Council are considering locating some new benches around the village.

Do you have any suggestions where these might be located?

Suggestions to clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk

Dear Editor

Over the past few months we have all been encouraged to stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. As a nation we have all appreciated the valiant efforts of our NHS and key workers who have continued to keep the country going.

It seems rather poignant therefore that over 100 years ago men and women were prepared to lay down their life for this country, but have this year been denied the fitting tribute of the usual Remembrance Services held to honour the dead due to the pandemic. Many veterans use this opportunity to meet up with their comrades and reflect on their experiences during the war.

I am, therefore, even more disappointed that Packington Parish Council did not seem to recognise the annual tribute to these brave people. There were no poppies or Remembrance flags displayed anywhere in the village. Why not?

If you drive around many local villages, they are all displaying fitting tributes, by which their purchase supports the valuable work of the British Legion. Packington is notable by the absence of any tribute. Come on councillors why has this happened, and can you assure us that in future you will not be so remiss!

Andrew and Janice Sumnall

Hill Farm.

Ban on night flights demanded to cut noise

There is now compelling evidence that night flights can seriously harm the health of local communities. Research has shown that sleep deprivation caused by aircraft noise can lead to high blood pressure and related health issues, including stress. The impact on children is even more worrying, as research has shown it can interfere with learning and memory and long term cognitive development.

With this in mind, a letter from 17 Community and Environmental Groups, which Packington is linked to, has sent representation to the Aviation Minister, Robert Courts MP, as part of the proposed consultation process on a 'National Night Policy' which is due to be announced shortly.

It is worth mentioning that night flights are mainly used by budget airlines or cargo flights which are rarely 'time critical'. Whilst airlines must be able to make a profit, that profit must not be at the expense of people's health, especially our children's.

If you are concerned then why not drop an email to your MP, Andrew Bridgen at andrew.bridgen.mp@parliament.uk and ask him to support the eight hour ban on all night flights between 11pm & 7am at East Midlands Airport. Or email the minister robert@robertcourts.co.uk and express your concerns about night flights.

Terry Hammond

terryhammond@me.com

(The Packington Aircraft Noise Action Group PANAG)

CONTEXT

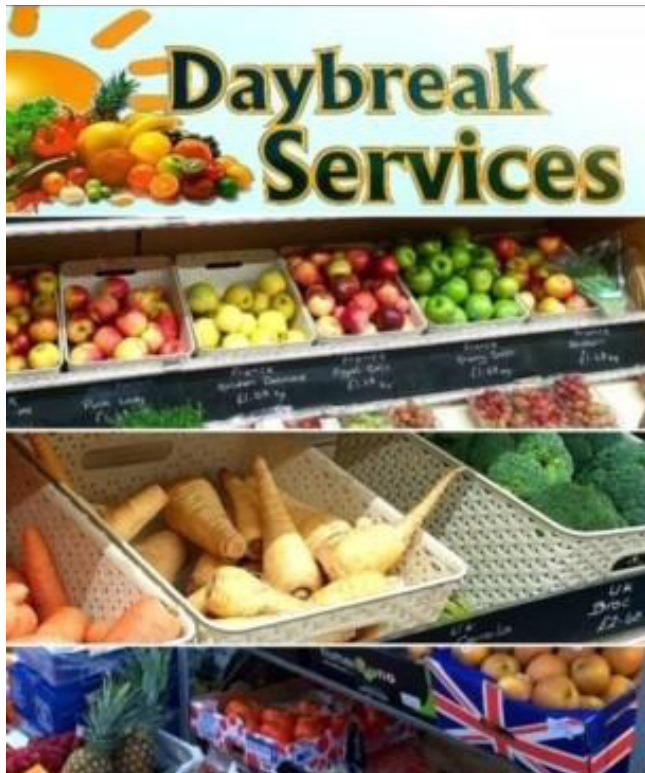
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 01530 411337

Have you got a story for the next Packington Post?

Contact editor@packington.info



There is one constant in amongst all the gloom.....**Daybreak Services**

Peter and his team are always there smiling and willing to help, whether to just carry to the car or getting your order up for delivery.

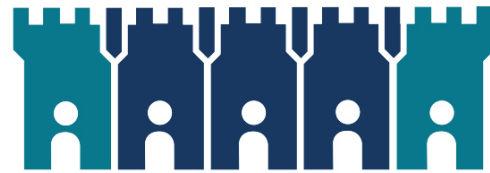
The shop has almost everything you could want, including a new range of light bulbs. We all need light as the winter evenings draw in. In addition, we have all heard the phrase, "Don't worry we can get that for you"

Support for our local Hero is needed more than ever. Without this wonderful shop many would have found Lockdown very difficult indeed.

There was **GOOD NEWS** in early November, when, at the Parish Council meeting, they approved the grant to the Packington Post for 2021 to 2022.

The Editorial Team is delighted that we can continue to bring you a quality bi-monthly publication filled with local news.

If you would like to join the Team then please talk to one of us to find out more.



Castle Medical Group

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and as a practice we have had to make changes to the way we deliver our services and appreciate this may not be clear.

We would like to reassure you that we are continuing to deliver healthcare services. If you require a consultation with a member of our clinician team which includes GPs, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Pharmacist and Physio we will offer you a telephone consultation in the first instance. This is to help minimise you having to attend the practice and also helps with reducing the spread of infection. If, following this discussion, the clinician feels that you need to be seen they will arrange for this via video consultation or ask you to attend the practice.

In addition to this our nursing team are continuing to see patients for key procedures e.g. blood tests, smears. If you do have a long-term condition and usually attend for an annual review where possible we will do the elements we can over the telephone.

If you do have a booked appointment, we would like to remind you NOT to attend the practice if you have been asked to self-isolate, have any COVID symptoms or have had any symptoms in the last 10 days (prior to your appointment). If you haven't done so, contact 111 to make arrangements to be tested.

On occasions we are having to rearrange appointments at short notice due to staff sickness or the need for them to self-isolate. We will rearrange these appointments on the same day where possible, but unfortunately due to staff pressures, this might not always be possible. We would like to thank you for your on-going support and understanding. We wish you all well and hope you are keeping safe.

01530 414131

Your Parish Council have been extremely busy over the last two months. The Drum and Monkey Lane planning application has been of prime importance but sadly on the 3rd of November the NWLDC planning Committee gave approval for three very large houses with garages to be built on the site behind houses on Normanton Road. Sadly, this tranquil part of the village will soon vanish from sight and the public footpath will be a lane in which pedestrians will have to dodge traffic. The residents are fighting on in this application and may still find a way to prevent the application. The Council unfortunately cannot enter into any Judicial Review process.

Councillors have also spent time with Zoom and Team meetings concerning Flooding and HS2. The latter, whilst on hold says the Government, is rolling on with meetings concerning such topics as

1. Public Rights of Way.
 2. Traffic Management.
 3. Community Impacts and Severance.
 - 4 Contractor Behaviour.
 5. Mitigation and Restoration after Construction.
- These meetings only serve to show how damaging this project will be for Packington. The Resident's Action Group are also attending these meetings.

The Council have also responded to the Governments White Paper on proposed new planning legislation and like many other statutory consultees have for the most part slammed the recommendations. In a nut shell it gives more power to the large developers and takes away even further the views of local people. If the white paper goes through it will certainly be a bad day for the countryside and rural communities.

The Council would like to express that anyone who is experiencing hardship, loneliness or requires help in this extra covid lockdown period, please contact your Street Neighbourhood Watch representative; the Clerk; or myself as Chairman; so that we can arrange support. Nothing is too much trouble. So, don't be afraid to speak up!

**Chris Miles Chairman
01530 44378 mob 07856179485**

Traffic Calming

Here, and on our next page 10, is the LCC Highways reply in full to the Parish Council request for traffic calming measures in the village

Thank you for your recent email regarding vehicle speeds through Packington and your request for traffic calming measures and we apologise for the delay in responding

Having reviewed our accident data, we are pleased to report that Packington as a whole, has a good accident record, there being 2 personal injury accidents recorded within the last five years. The severity of these accidents are slight and located on the approaches in to the village from Ashby Road and Measham Road. The data pertaining to these accidents are not attributable to speed.

As advised, the County Council has no legal powers to take enforcement action against drivers who exceed the speed limit, as such we recommend that you report all issues relating to speeding traffic to Leicestershire Police; who are the only authority who can take action against motorists who drive above the speed limit.

We also advised that Officers noted there are already some soft traffic calming measures within Packington (gateway treatment at the start of the 30mph speed terminal signs on Ashby Road from Ashby de la Zouch approach). 30mph speed roundel and slow markings on Normanton Road approach. Numerous slow markings and 20mph School Safety Zone on the Measham Road approach.

With regards to your suggestions for further traffic calming measures in Packington and for ease of reference I will address each issue separately:

One Way

When officers review traffic safety requests such as making local streets one-way, we have to balance all of the competing needs for road users, as to provide and maintain a safe and efficient highway network.

To change a street from an existing two-way flow into a one-way flow can sometimes create more safety issues than the anticipated improvements to both safety and meeting the requirements local resident's needs. When considering such a major change to the highways' environment, officers have to take into account such issues as:

- Suitability of alternative routes
- Likelihood of a significant increase to speeds when a street becomes one way
- Current and future traffic flows
- Accident history over the past five years
- Capacity of existing junctions
- Considerable support gained from affected residents

Without all of the outlined issues being resolved then officer's views are that there should be no change to the current two-way street.

Reducing Speed Limits

When considering a new speed limit, officers must be satisfied that there is a change in the environment that drivers can easily identify in order for them to understand the reasoning behind the speed limit change, which in turn will increase compliance with the speed limit. Guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) states that unless a speed limit is set with the support from the local community, the Police and other local services, or if it is set unrealistically low for the particular road function and condition, it may be ineffective and drivers may not comply with the speed limit.

The DfT also advises that a 30 mph speed limit should apply in an environment which is built-up and has development on both sides of the roads. Where street lighting is present the speed limit is 30mph. Where there are no street lights present, the speed limit defaults to national.

Vehicle Activated Sign

A permanent VAS can be installed on the highway and the processes vary depending whether the Parish choose to appoint a contractor to install the asset, or pay the County Council to install and maintain the asset. There are three options

available to the parish to proceed (with installation): (The Parish already paid to have five of these signs and are not proposing to increase the number.)

Speed bumps

Assessment is undertaken to identify sites with patterns of accidents or treatable accidents. Sites are assessed against National Averages and predicted accident rates. If the number of accidents at a site is higher than the national figure then further investigation will be carried out. Our accident records pertain to personal injury accidents recorded within the past 5 years. The criteria for this has been set out and was agreed by our Scrutiny Committee in September 2016, a link to the report is below for your convenience.

With the good accident record outlined above, unfortunately Packington does not meet the County Councils current criteria to justify soft traffic calming measures at this time.

We appreciate that this will be a disappointment to you, however we hope that the above adequately explains our rationale in this matter.

Thank you once again for your enquiry.

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INNOVATIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS COUNTRYWIDE





PACKINGTON in the year 1636

Adrian Mongredien writes:

Recently I borrowed a document from our village History Society archive. It is a typed copy of the Register of..... "all the Christenings, Marriages, and Burialls (sic) that have been at Packington in the year of our Lord God 1636".

This is the only register for this period that records the occupation of the adult male parent. The Register starts on March 27th 1636. Easter day that year was on March 23rd.

Between 27th March 1636 and 8th March 1637 there are 18 Christenings, 2 Marriages and 3 "Burrialls" listed. It is worth noting that there were no uniform ways of spelling at this time.

The entries start as follows:
Ann daughter of Katherin & Thomas NEWBOLD, naylour* & clerk of this parish baptized March 27th.
*someone who makes nails

William sonne of Abigall & William PICKERING, carpenter baptized April 1.

Gamaliel the sonne of Sarah and Thomas PESTELL, vicar of the Parish baptized April 7.

Mary daughter of Anne & Richard WRIGHT husbandman** baptized April 24th.
**A Granger or Farmer: someone who tills the ground

Joseph soonne of Elizabeth and Xtopher BACH, collier*** baptized April 24th

Xtopher? possibly Christopher
*** A Miner, or someone who transported coal.

The list continues with the baptism of William whose parents are listed as June & George WHITBY, then Katherin, parents Bridget & Richard DONISTHORP. Mary, parents Isabell & John HOOD. William, parents, Alice & Randall GOODIN. Sarah, parents, Sarah & William SMITH. Elizabeth, parents, Anne & Robert STARKEY. Richard, parents, Dorothy & Randoll LANGHAM. He is described as a miller so he presumably lived at the Mill. Margarite, parents, Sarah & Richard BOLIE, Henry, parents Sarah & Robert PEERSTON, Mary, parents Mary & John KENDALL, George, parents Elizabeth & John DRAYCOTE, Joseph, parents Anne & Nevile TOMSON.

Finally, Elizabeth & Robert ROE. He is described as a "yeoman" which can be defined as a class of farmer who owned their land in some form as opposed to being tenant farmers; so definitely middle class (and well read). They have their son baptised as "Hamlet" on March 8th 1637. (36-38 years after Shakespeare invented the name) In all 10 boys and 8 girls were baptised in the 12 month period.

There were two marriages; On April 7th not only was Gamaliel Pestell the son of the Vicar baptised but Gamaliel CARR, minister in Essex & Francis MILLER, widow of Leicester were listed as married. Can we conclude that Gamaliel Carr was a friend of the Vicar Thomas Pestell to the point that he chose the same name for his own son? Sadly it all ended in tragedy as under BURRIALLS we see listed "Gamaliel an infant of 5 weeks sonne to Sarah and Thomas PESTELL clerke, Vicar of ye parish buried May 9th".

The burial entry before that dated March 31st reads John a little child sonne to Katherine & Thomas NEWBOULD naylour and Clerke of ys parish buried. Clearly Katherine Newbould, despite the changed spelling, had had twins but only one, Ann had survived to be baptised.

There is only one other "Burriall" listed that of: "Anna PRESBURIE an old widow buried" but no date supplied.

The professions listed on this page include 5 husbandmen, 3 colliers, 1 butcher, 1 baker (but no candlestick maker), 1 naylour, 1 carpenter, 1 weaver, 1 miller, 1 labourer, and (not forgetting Hamlet's Dad), 1 yeoman

The Register page is signed by Tho Pestell, vic. and Willm Pickring and George Mosely, churchwardens confirmed these entries by their marks, which underscores the extent of illiteracy in these times.

A terrible English Civil War broke out only five years later. On 14th June 1645 the decisive Battle of Naseby, took place only 30 miles southeast of Packington. It changed the world these men and women lived in forever.

Adrian Mongredien October 2020.

The Time has Come

Back in March, as the first lockdown came, well known village resident Sharron Miller was one of the many to lose her work literally overnight. Up until this point she had enjoyed a successful career as a mentor, coach and meditation/ mindfulness teacher, helping others to live and enjoy life to the full, with peace, regardless of their circumstances. But with support groups closed and face to face sessions halted, she found herself having plenty of time on her hands and turned her attention to her hobbies. Having always journalled for as long as she can remember, Sharron began writing fiction as a hobby when time allowed and intended one day to do something with it. As uncertainties surrounding the work she knew grew, she was encouraged to get her writing out there. Deciding there was nothing to lose, that's just what she did and began to write daily, formatting her work into a manuscript and progressing the ideas she had already penned until she had a finished book. On October 1st, her debut psychological time slip novel, **The Time Has Come...** was published and is enjoying multiple 5-star reviews on both Amazon and Goodreads, where Sharron has been officially listed as an Author. The book is available to download as an eBook or can be bought in paperback and for a limited time, is available free on Kindle Unlimited.

You can find out more by visiting Sharron's website at <https://www.sharronmiller.com> which contains all social media links and a direct link to purchase.

Sharron said, 'If the virus has taught me anything, it is that we should never put off dedicating time to what we are passionate about. Life is changing fast for everyone and if we resist that change, we become stuck and unhappy. We should all embrace what we have now, in this very moment and not dwell on what we've lost, life then has a way of becoming quite magical.'

So, are there any plans for further books?

'Absolutely. Book number 2 is well under way and will be available in June 2021. This one will be set on the North Norfolk coast and will be another psychological time slip.'

Sharron is an active member of the community and many of you will know her from helping out at one of the numerous events our village holds, from the Horticultural Show to the Centenary Celebrations. She is also the neighbourhood watch co-ordinator for Babelake Street. Although she has only lived in Packington for just over 10 years, her husband James was born here, his maternal family having been residents for hundreds of years as she is discovering through her genealogy research. When she is not writing or researching, Sharron is a keen gardener and loves nothing more than to escape into her garden and connect with nature.

Sharron
07902 466611

available at
amazon

goodreads



Eighty years ago in Packington....

On the evening of 14th November 1940, the sky over Packington was clear, lit by an almost full moon. A few hours after dark, villagers observed an ominous red glow to the south and realised that something devastating was taking place. As Laura Cooper recalled in "Gems from the Gilwiskaw" many years later, "Who could forget the bombing of the City of Coventry....? This was completely visible from Packington."

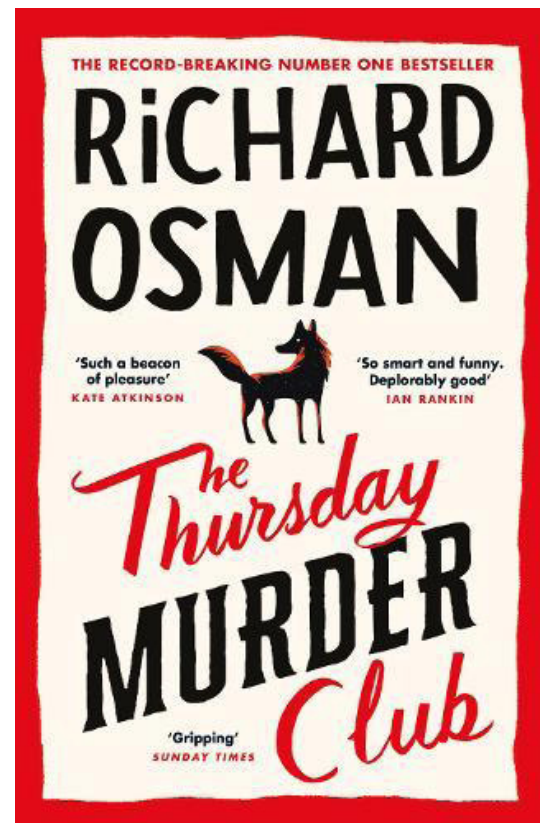
Over four hundred planes took part in the bombing, which the Germans code-named "Moonlight Sonata." With its many factories contributing to the war effort, Coventry was a prime target. Bombs began falling around 7.15 p.m. and continued for the next ten hours; it was not until 6.30 next morning that the "all clear" was sounded. Much of the city centre, with many historic buildings including the cathedral, was soon ablaze, while firefighters found water supplies dwindling away. Ground and air defences had little impact: just one German plane was shot down, somewhere near Loughborough (the pilot having apparently lost his way). To "Coventrate" became a byword for concentrated bombing raids as World War Two went on.

The city's links with Packington stretch back to much earlier times. In 1043, Leofric, Earl of Mercia, founded an abbey in Coventry, endowing it with the manor of Packington and other sites across Leicestershire. The abbey, later becoming a priory, held the village for nearly four hundred years until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Through to today "Babelake St." echoes the name of a district in the city and of a long-established school there.

Information from the archive of Packington Village History Group and from "Coventry" by Frederick Taylor.

Contact Robin Boucher
randbboucher@googlemail.com
 01530 411638

Book Club



The Packington Book Club is still meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. At the moment we are meeting via Zoom and we're still enjoying our get-togethers; talking about the book and catching up with local news.

On November 25th we are discussing "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. This book has got great reviews so we are all looking forward to it and, despite the subject matter being murder, it is humorous and escapist – great for a cosy read by the fire.

If you would like to join us it is very easy to connect via Zoom (as probably most of you know by now!) – an invitation can be sent to your email address – and you don't even have to go out in the dark!

If you would like further information please contact **Helen Edgington**
 Tel: 01530 412808, mob: 07766 086580,
helenmedgington@gmail.com

With another LOCKDOWN upon us please look out for any neighbour who may be lonely or isolated.

Can you help with shopping or a friendly word on the phone?

Anyone needing help please contact Christine Hammond 01530 415764

Village Footways and Roads: Help is at hand

We've heard of **two exciting opportunities** for Packington folk to talk direct to the people who can make our footways and roads better.



Widen My Path

To help keep us safe, the government has announced that councils should be creating new cycleways and wider pavements for physical distancing.

We need your help to identify where these are most needed. Add your idea!

Isle of Man

Where are cycleways and wider pavements for distancing needed?

Widen My Path

To help keep us safe, the government announced, that councils should be creating new cycleways and wider pavements to allow for physical distancing. They need our help to identify where these are most needed. You can see and support what others have suggested, but more importantly, you can add YOUR idea - just say on their map **where** new cycleways and wider pavements for distancing are needed. This "Widen My Path" opportunity is at www.widenmypath.com



Report a problem Sign in All reports Local alerts Help

Fix My Street

Report, view, or discuss local problems

Fix My Street

Potholes? Signs down? Overgrowth at the roadside? Missing kerbstones? Traffic or street lights dead? Graffiti? Fly-tipping? Broken paving slabs? Accident damage to walls or hedgerows? We can report, view or discuss local problems just by locating the place on their map and giving details - they send them to the Council DIRECTLY on our behalf. The "Fix My Street" opportunity is at: www.fixmystreet.com

Hill Farm

Last Month there was a dreadful fire at Hill Farm in Spring Lane. Not only did this arson attack destroy two barns but also the winter feed stored inside. This has cost the Sumnall family thousands of pounds.

They are bouncing back with the meat shop staying open - and the café will be available for take away hot food and drinks but no for sitting in. We are also still more than happy to offer home delivery in the local area - or you can always message us on Facebook to place an order to collect.

We have a large stock of all of our meat including Beef, Pork, Lamb, Venison, and Bison. A current price list will be following soon so you can have a look at what we have available.



We've got more of our very popular Beef and Ale pies fresh in today! Made with 100% British Beef from our very own farm, and just £4.50 each!

Find them in the farm shop before they all sell out this Friday and Saturday from 10am-3pm.

Follow us on Facebook
Hill Farm Packington
01530 411984

Faster Broadband

Fibre To The Premises - FTTP - is coming to Packington. At present we have our broadband using FTTC - Fibre to the Cabinet, and that cabinet is opposite the Round House at the top of High Street, from where simple copper wires of the old telephone network bring broadband to our homes.



The picture of Thursday 12 November shows OpenReach cabling one of the first FTTP installations in the village, from a distribution point beside the Bull and Lion, to a business on Heather Lane. Why should we be interested? - because FTTP can bring far faster broadband than currently available to our homes. Coming soon to us all (we have to buy it, though!!)

Safety Information

As the evenings start to draw in, officers are reminding people to ensure their homes look occupied during the darker nights. The force traditionally sees a seasonal rise in burglaries around the time the clocks go back, with offences often rising throughout December and January.

The winter months can make it easier for burglars to go unnoticed and also makes unoccupied homes easier to spot. The force is encouraging residents to review their home security and take a few simple and inexpensive precautions to protect their homes.

One of the easiest things you can do is to leave a light on when you go out. You can use an automatic light timer to switch lamps on in your home when you go out for the evening, or when you go away, to give the appearance you are home.

There are lots of other things you can do to make your home more secure including:

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times and remove keys from the lock
- Keep valuables, bags, cash and keys out of sight and keep them in a safe place
- Don't keep large quantities of cash and jewellery in your home
- Avoid leaving packaging from expensive items outside your house – take it to be recycled or put it in the bin
- If you have a house alarm make sure you remember to set it before leaving the house
- Check your outdoor security lighting is in full working order
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home with locked gates and fencing
- If you're going away, don't advertise this on social media
- Ask a neighbour or relative to collect post and open and close curtains while you're away

Carla Harris Glass

Sadly, I am not going to be able to run my Christmas gift shopping evening this year but you can still get all your glass gifts! Instead Carla Harris Glass is taking part in the Virtual Christmas Market - 4th to the 6th December! This market involves some amazing talent and products for all kinds of Christmas presents that are suitable for all ages! Support small during these difficult times. Want a stall?

Message the admins and they'll be sure to help you out!

If you would please join the group and support me and my fellow store holders!

[Facebook Carla Harris Glass](#)

Carla Harris-Marsh 07799 020174

A few years ago, in 2011 it was revealed in the Packington Post (issue 48) that 22 “true” adult “Packingtonians” had been counted who had been born in our village, or lived here since birth. Sadly a number of those listed are no longer with us and the current number may well be below 20. Although one or two families might have lived in the village for several generations, as far as our historic village of Packington is concerned we are all newcomers, or recent “immigrants”.

In normal times Packington is a very welcoming village to outsiders. When we arrived in 2002 our neighbours immediately made us feel ‘at home’ and we quickly became aware of lots of village groups and activities available for us to join and take part in. The Packington Post, at this time, was filled with forthcoming village events. The current pandemic has temporarily put on hold much of this social activity.

There are still new people and families moving into the village however and the Packington Post team will try to make sure everyone is visited and given a Welcome Pack shortly after their arrival.

What else can we do to make new arrivals to our village feel welcome and to help us communicate with our neighbours during these unusual times?

Perhaps we could ‘say it with flowers’ by growing something new and colourful in our front gardens next year, even if it was only a few pots of geraniums so that when we do our daily walk around the village next summer we could admire and applaud, at a recommended social distance, the efforts of our neighbours, new and old, to lift our spirits and beautify our village. We might even get to enter a best kept village in Leicestershire competition if they still have one! Or even win it!!

Adrian Mongredien

Welcome Pack

Lets all keep a look out for new arrivals in the village.

Please let Becky Taylor know and she will personally deliver a prepared Welcome Pack.

Better that there are two or three notifications than none at all.

Contact details below

Looking for the right advice?



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