

YOU ARE INVITED TO 2021 PACKINGTON

~~BIG BREAKFAST~~

LITTLE TAKEAWAY BREAKFAST!

Raising Money For



British Heart Foundation

MEMORIAL HALL FRONT CAR PARK

Saturday 12th June

09.30am to 12.30pm

Serving Takeaway Breakfast Baps: Bacon, Sausage or Egg £3.00 and
Quality Drinks: Cappuccino £2.50 Latte £2.50 Americano £2.00 Hot Chocolate £3.00
Payment by Contactless Preferred

**If you are unable to get out and would like to support this village event we
can arrange delivery, please Phone or Text 07779 450143 before 5th June.**

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www.packington.info

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Light at the End of the Tunnel

Editorial

As Lockdown eases, we are all looking forward to some return to normality. What form this will take we do not know, but optimism is in the air.

Many of the regular groups and activities are starting up and we can look forward to village events resuming. The first of these will be the "Little Take-Away Breakfast" on Saturday 12th June. (see page 12). The charity this year is British Heart Foundation.



There is hope that the Open Gardens will take place on August Bank Holiday Monday, followed of course by the Duck Race on the brook at Mill Street. Closely followed by the Horticultural Show on the first Saturday in September.

The Bull & Lion is fully open for business as is Poochies café. Both have had a torrid time and we are pleased to see them back. Daybreak Services has been a boon to many. Let us continue to support this fabulous local business.

Volunteers are the heart of any village community. There are two appeals in this issue. Let's hope people come forward to ensure that organisations keep functioning.
Mike Coke Editor

New Parish Councillor

Congratulations to Russell Powell on being elected to our Parish Council in this month's election.

Russell told us: "I grew up in Packington and now live here with my wife and young son so I am passionate about our village. I'd like to thank everyone that voted for me and I'm excited about trying to make a difference in ensuring our community continues to be enjoyable and safe for all residents.

My focus is on helping to influence community, safety and facilities within the village and ensuring residents are kept informed and up to date with all village matters.

Packington is a wonderful village and I want to help protect its future so that residents old and new can enjoy village life as much as my family and I do."

Thank you to both Russell Powell and Bob Herritty, for volunteering to stand for election to work on our Parish Council and also to the 363 residents who cast their vote for this election.



Next Edition: Copy by Wednesday 14th
Out Friday 23rd July 2021



Packington Post
www.packington.info

Parish Council

Two monthly meetings have been held via Zoom since the last report. The Council considered providing Grit Bins for use in severe icy road conditions on residential roads that are on slopes which have in the past made it dangerous for residents to travel. It was resolved to ask residents if they knew of any suitable locations where Grit Bins could be located. There are regulations for their provision and the most restricting are - Bins must be placed on highway land; must have a 1.5m wide clearance on the footway; have nearby property owner's agreement. We are therefore asking readers and targeting houses within this category about suitable location sites. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you have any suggestions. clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk

It is pleasing to report that the police have recorded very few incidents in the last two months. Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police. They do appreciate information given to them as quickly as possible.

The Council have been asked by residents to provide bigger and more refuse bins within the Parish. The Council understands the need and have asked the Local Authority to provide bigger bins. We have however been informed that they are the biggest bins they provide. We have therefore resolved to pay for extra emptying of the bins. They were on a fortnightly collection cycle and we have asked for a weekly collection at certain locations. We will keep the situation monitored.

The Council have also been asked about the provision of Allotments for residents. Unfortunately, the Parish Council do not own any land and therefore the following is an appeal to anyone who can help.

Wanted.
**Land suitable for Allotments To
Rent or to Buy.**
**Any areas of land needing
bringing back to life.**
**Any unused land needing some
TLC**
Please contact the Parish Clerk:
[**clerk@packington.org.uk**](mailto:clerk@packington.org.uk)

In May, the Annual Parish meeting took place and Councillors Miles and Martin were elected Chairman and Vice chairman respectively. At this meeting, a re-submitted planning application for three Log Cabins to be erected on fields along Coloeorton Lane was discussed. The previous application had been withdrawn and the current application was much the same apart from a longer letter of explanation by the applicant's agent. It was resolved to strongly object to this application again and refute some of the proposals laid out in agent's supporting evidence.

The village entrance enhancement scheme is well in hand. The six planters which have been made locally by fourteen-year-old Zac Holden, are ready and Councillor Martin has sourced the materials and the labour to fill the planters which will be in place after the last frost! (We hope)
The Vehicle Activated Sign on Ashby Road has now been repaired after a twelve month wait and now it seems the outgoing VAS on the Ashby Rd needs repairing.

Councillors have had numerous reports of electric scooters being ridden within Packington. It is illegal to ride on an electric scooter on roads and pavements. The rules stated by the police are that electric scooters should only be ridden on the owner's own land. They should not be ridden on the highway or land not belonging to the owner. Any future sightings of illegal use of electric scooters will be reported to the police where confiscation of the scooter is a possibility.

As we prepare for Pandemic restrictions to ease, the Council remain committed to help those in need. If anyone has any problems or needs help, please speak up. Ring me or contact the Clerk. There are people in place who will assist you whatever the reason. We hope the elderly in the village will be protected and that some normality will return. Please keep safe.
For more details of Parish Councils decisions and notices please go to our website.

www.packingtonpc.org.uk
Chris Miles (Chairman) 07856 179485

Community Orchard

There have been a number of articles in the Post over the years since the Packington Community Orchard was developed. For those hearing about it for the first time, the orchard is placed on a slope to the west of Normandy Wood on Measham Rd. Access is by a footpath from Normandy Wood which takes you through to the Orchard and goes on towards Springs and Gallows Lane. The orchard is a mixed orchard with plums, apples, pears, and damsons etc.



The orchard group is in need of new blood and I am sure there are people out there who would be happy to help by picking fruit, doing a little pruning where necessary and becoming a member of the Packington Orchard Squad. Three of the original members now have a combined total age in excess of 225 years and would welcome some younger successors.

If you have a little time and an interest in trees, especially fruit, please volunteer yourself by emailing Chris Miles.
christopher.miles@sky.com



Envelopes

Every house in Packington should have received a **Christian Aid Envelope** inviting donations for this year's collection.

This year it was decided that envelopes would be delivered only, and returned by the individual householders to an address nearby.

Anyone still wishing to make a donation should return the envelope as directed. If you would like your envelope collected, please get in touch. Thank you.

Doreen Gasson 01530 412012
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www.craneandwalton.com

May and June Services

All services begin at **10am**

May 16th: Holy Communion at Measham, Appleby and Packington

May 23rd: Pentecost Holy Communion at Normanton, Packington and Appleby

May 30th: Trinity Sunday Holy Communion at Measham, Normanton and Donisthorpe with a baptism service at Swepstone

June 6th: Appleby (MP); Donisthorpe, Packington and Snarestone (all HC)

June 13th: Normanton-le-Heath (MP); Measham, Norton juxta Twycross and Swepstone (all HC) (5pm Zoom service)

June 20th: Swepstone, Appleby and Packington (all HC)

June 27th: Donisthorpe (MP); Normanton-le-Heath and Appleby (HC); Measham (Baptism) (5pm Zoom service)

Do check our website for up to date details: www.packingtonandnormantonchurches.org.uk

Farewell service to Revd Joanne Dyer

About 50 of us crammed on to a Zoom screen to bid our farewells to Joanne. She actually left us seven months ago when seconded to the Whitwick set of parishes but that all happened quickly and not chance to say goodbyes. It was a good time of encouragement to all. Thanks to all who gave for Joanne's leaving presents: she has been given a bench for her new garden, pottery from Moira Furnace Pottery and a picture of all eight Team churches (with a cheque added to that as well).

By the time you read this, Joanne will have been licensed to her new post in the parishes around Austrey. Although close to us, she is in a completely different diocese. So she moves on from her training post with us to be the incumbent in her own right of another set of churches. We wish her well and she goes with our prayers.

Little Fishes Outside at Measham We're finally back!

On Friday 7th May, Little Fishes, our group for under 5's and their carers met for the first time in more than a year. There were lots of differences since we last met together: we were outside, we couldn't get round a table to do crafts, some children had grown and some had been born since. But it was fantastic to see everyone, including two new families, and the fun and friendship was the same. We still managed to keep our craft time, chat, story and songs (much better than Zoom singing) and the weather was kind.

June meetings will be on 4th and 18th at 10am – and we imagine still outside. Go to the website www.stlaurencechurchmeasham.org.uk/childrens-activities or contact Vivien on vivien.elphick@btinternet.com or scan the QR code below. Booking is preferred as we have restricted numbers and need to prepare materials in advance, but we all understand that small children don't follow plans.



Forest Church is meeting again!

Come along on **Sunday June 6th at 4pm.**
Venue: **behind Measham Church, High Street, Measham DE12 7HZ**



We'll be exploring the senses and learning more about so many things. Do bring your own food and drink and something to sit on, as Covid guidance still means we can't offer this to you. Keep an eye on the church website for more details or contact **Revd Rick Tett on 01530 610235.**

Eggcellent Work

Last issue we reported on the fantastic efforts of Packington Primary School pupil, Clarissa Greenfield, and her 2021 Easter Egg Campaign. We're pleased to share that she surpassed her initial target and collected a whopping 714 eggs! They were delivered to the hardworking NHS staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham in time for Easter.

Clarissa and her family want to thank all the friends, family and local businesses that donated, including Daybreak Services.

She received a lot of well-earned praise for her latest charity work and was even featured on the local ITV news. We look forward to seeing what Clarissa's next charity mission is!

You can keep up to date with all of Clarissa's charitable efforts on her Facebook page at [facebook.com/ClarissasLove](https://www.facebook.com/ClarissasLove)



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Programme of Events

art photography music theatre poetry storytelling film crafts
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www.ashbyartsfestival.co.uk

As you read this, the Ashby Arts Festival giant wallboards of an iconic outdoor gallery can be seen on Ashby buildings, with artwork from local artists. The theme is "Life in The National Forest", and will remain in Ashby until 6 pm on Wed 2nd June 2021.



This is one of the pieces which has been painted by Christine Hammond, from Mill Street.

Later in **June** a weekend looking at recycling, featuring a creative cardboard-making workshop with artist Tim Neath.

July will see an exhibition called "Out of the Woods". This was an idea started by Carla Harris-Marsh and several people from Packington are members of this group. Their work will be on display at a venue tba.

Memorial Hall now open for business with restrictions. Check out the website for details. pmhv.uk

Memorial Hall

With guidelines for use yet to be released by the Government we hope that the phased reopening of the Memorial Hall will be a success. As I write this, I know the Booking Secretary is being inundated with requests to continue group activity and as soon as we hear from Boris that it is okay to open in some capacity, then we will.

Treasurer Wanted

It is with great regret that Robin Dixon has had to resign as Treasurer to the Memorial Hall. Robin has been a true servant of the Hall for five or so years and he has found it necessary, due to family reasons, to finish this role with immediate effect.

We are therefore urgently appealing for help in this regard and would welcome any interest in the position of treasurer from anyone who feels they could undertake this important role. Please contact Chairman

Chris Miles 07856 179485
christopher.miles@sky.com

Sally Peterson

Many of you will recall that until quite recently, Sally Peterson was the Booking Secretary for the Memorial Hall. She had undertaken this duty voluntarily for a number of years, and it was with great sadness that I learnt of her untimely passing on Saturday 1st May. Sally was a most conscientious, calm and capable Booking Secretary. She mastered the relatively new online booking procedures handed down by the previous Secretary and was one of the key personnel who have made the Memorial Hall a hive of activity. Sally was always quietly respectful and seemed to take this enormous job in her stride. The Memorial Hall Trustees will miss Sally's thoughtful approach to being a Trustee and we are deeply saddened by her death. Our condolences go to Ian, her husband, and we will all miss her.

Chris Miles (Chairman of Trustees)

Recreation Ground Charity

A number of repairs have taken place in the play-area and these are undertaken by a team from NWLDC who specialise in equipment repairs and inspections. This work is not cheap but essential and although the Recreation Ground Charity has a small amount of funds, they are grateful the Parish Council is able to step in and support this necessary repair work. During the Pandemic, the field and the play-area has been heavily used and the necessary guidelines for use have been well adhered to. So well done everyone! As much of the restrictions for play-area has been reduced, we hope everyone continues to look after this great asset.

New Bench

This is the new bench situated along Mill Street. There is a dedication to Wes Ewing, who lived close by.



There is a second new bench, dedicated to Councillor Ian Dring, at the top of Mill Street, replacing an old bench.

It is likely they will both be put to good use by the many walkers who come through the village.

Parish Council launches new website packingtonpc.org.uk

Bull & Lion re-opens

Our local, the Bull and Lion, re-opened on 12th April with a new team - Steven Johns, landlord and director of Bull and Lion Limited, seen here second from left, with his business colleagues John, Hayley and Damien.



Outdoor sunshine proved a hit with customers, many delighted to be able to sit and enjoy a quiet drink in the open, their first for four months.



Poochies Cafe

By the time you read this Poochies will be back open for business (subject to the Roadmap going to plan).

We can confirm that we have carried out a Covid 19 Risk Assessment and will be adhering to the five steps to be compliant and safe. Orders will be taken at your chosen table. Bookings can be made in advance. Seating is available outside too.

Everyone must either scan with NHS COVID -19 app on entry to the café or provide their name and contact details in the book provided.



My staff and I are looking forward to seeing our customers new, old, and, canine very soon.

Bev Smith 01530 587240 or 07796 651596

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Horticultural Society (PHS)



This year's Annual Village Show will be held on **Saturday 4th September** and in addition the PHS is hosting two further events: a flower arranging demonstration and a Christmas decoration workshop.

The flower arranging demonstration will be held on **Saturday 13th November** in the Memorial Hall. The event will see Chelsea Flower Show medalist, Rosie Mason, create a number of beautiful flower displays, whilst guests enjoy a delicious afternoon tea.

The Christmas decoration workshop will be held on **Saturday 11th December**, also in the Memorial Hall, where guests will be guided through making a variety of seasonal decorations, such as festive wreaths, by our experts.

Further information will be available nearer the dates, including how to purchase tickets to both events.

Proceeds from these additional events will also be added to the pot and distributed to various local groups, organisation and charities.

To keep up to date with news about the Packington Village Show follow us on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/packingtonshow

OneFitMama Returns



OneFitMama classes have returned to the Memorial Hall. If you or someone you know is looking to return to exercise after having a baby then these classes are perfect. They are led by a qualified instructor with play mats for your little ones and no one will blink an eye if your baby cries, if they need a feed mid class, or a quick nappy change.

Here are a few top tips to getting back into fitness:

1. Start gently. Walking and working on your pelvic floor will get you feeling fitter and stronger in a few weeks. (Try the NHS Squeazy App for reminders!)
2. Running with a baby in a buggy can be great exercise, but it's not suitable for babies under 6 months old.
3. Your body has been through a lot. If you have any concerns always speak to your doctor and wait for your six week check before beginning or returning to an exercise programme.
4. Find a qualified Postnatal fitness instructor or PT to work with. They can help you return to exercise safely and offer modifications if you have had a C-Section.
5. Try a daytime session that you can bring your baby to, such as OneFitMama.

If you have any questions about returning to exercise after having a baby, or would be interested in booking a class or a PT session you can contact **Sabrina at:**
Loughborough@onefitmama.co.uk

Parkrun to Resume on 5th June 2021

It's still two weeks away, but England **parkrun events** are now scheduled to **restart on 5th June 2021**. These FREE weekly timed five kilometre walk or run events every Saturday at 9am were a firm favourite until 14th March 2020.



Our local **Conkers parkrun** event will still be held at the Conkers Waterside venue, just 5 miles from Packington, with parking available at both Waterside and Conkers Discovery. They have introduced a slightly modified course to allow

- greater social distancing at the start and finish, and:
- right turns only on the route, which means:
- runners and walkers can now **KEEP LEFT** all the way, in accordance with the official recommendations for the Conkers area.
- The new route at exactly 5 kilometres is slightly longer than the previous route, which always seemed to be 4.9 kilometres instead of the full 5km! There are also slight changes to how the barcodes and tokens are scanned, to avoid unnecessary handling and possible contamination.

What has not changed at all is the parkrun ethos -

- fully inclusive - anyone can turn up and walk or run, or volunteer to help organise the event every week
- Grandparents to grandchildren are all welcome. Alas, the trails round Conkers are not wheelchair friendly
- you can take part with a child 5+, or a baby buggy, or a dog on a short lead
- to receive a time, you need to first register, just once in your lifetime, on the parkrun website
- you can't be last! - unless you first volunteer to be the event Tail-Walker, who follows everyone else
- we hope you'll socialise afterwards at the café which serves drinks and snacks
- There are now over 2,000 venues worldwide in 22 countries, from America to Russia, and Singapore to Eswatini. Back in February 2020, over 350,000 people took part at them every week

It's still called parkrun - AOWALC, All One Word, All Lower Case! so, not Parkrun nor Park Run nor parK rUn, none of those - just parkrun. Come along and be part of it!

The 9am Sundays Swadlincote Junior parkrun is hoping to re-start in September, initially for 4 to 10-year-olds. They need to recruit to their volunteer core team, the previous team largely evaporated with their children having grown up!



Robert Dilworth 411673

Firefighters from Ashby Station have been training in the village of Packington.



They were testing an open water source using an improvised Dam to supply water to a ground monitor.



Blood Bikers met earlier in March, in the car park at the Memorial Hall for training of new volunteers. Yet another group that we know very little about. These volunteers are on call 24/7 to deliver blood to hospitals across Leicestershire and Rutland.

The car park was full of powerful motor cycles and lots of guys in leathers to learn how to transport this vital fluid safely.



The Cat in the Box

When all the Packington Post copies have been delivered what happens to the box?



Well for Pippa David, her cat, Winston, takes over and says "thank you"!

History Group

Since our last "Post" update, Sue Brown has come forward to take up the role of secretary for the next two years. Thanks go to Sue for stepping forward. A select few of us have continued to hold monthly discussions on Zoom and work is being carried out on a number of projects which we hope will come to fruition as lockdown rules ease. We expect to resume "normal" meetings from September.

In the meantime, I would like to draw attention to the following events:
Our next Zoom meeting will take place on **Tuesday 25th May at 7.30 pm** when Sue will give a presentation entitled "The Leeson family – Packington Gentry in the 15th and 16th centuries". Anyone who would like to join us for this will be most welcome: let Robin (see below) have your e-mail address and you will receive the Zoom link details on the previous day.

Our History Walk up Mill Street is planned for **Tuesday June 15th, meeting at the junction of Bridge Street and Babelake Street for a 7.30 pm** start. Again, non-members will be most welcome to join us. We will obviously be hoping for a fine evening weather-wise, but if conditions are adverse we will try again one week later, on **Tuesday 22nd June**.

Contact Robin Boucher 01530 411638
randbboucher@googlemail.com

Lunch Club

By the time you read this we hope to have welcomed our members back for a lovely meal on **Wednesday May 19th**.

For the time being the lunch club will meet in the main hall to ensure social distancing with only six to a table.

Our next meal will be **June 16th**.
Looking forward to seeing you all again

Please do not arrive before 12 noon as we have to allow 30 minutes after the previous booking.

If anyone new would like to join us in June please contact:
Pauline 414378 or Rachael 413795

Table Tennis

The Packington Table Tennis club resumes post lockdown on Wednesday 19th May with the plan to run [through every Wednesday until 7th July](#) at the Memorial Hall. The session remains at 19:15 - 21:15. The Club committee decided that a cautious approach should be taken on the restart and aligned to the clubs previous risk assessment. The autumn session will then start on Wednesday September 8th until Christmas. Hopefully the Loughborough League will be back up and running then and we hope to enter at least one team. The team in 2019 finished a very respectable 5th in Division 4.

Unfortunately, our national coach is not in a position to restart so the junior coaching is currently on hold. Three new League standard table tennis tables were purchased prior to lockdown thanks to the Parish Council approval of a grant and a very kind significant donation from Packington Horticultural Society.

Numbers will be limited to 18 and we will employ a booking system in line with Table Tennis England guidelines. There is always a warm welcome for all levels of player from beginner to advanced. The cost remains frozen for a 5th year at £2.50 per adult and £1.50 per junior.

**For more information contact:
Graham Saunt 07764471917**

