



Packington Post

www.packington.info

January 2022

issue no 112

£1.50 (Village residents free)

Opportunities to Help Your Community

Packington Memorial Hall and
Packington Parish Council
**Sponsors of the Queen's Jubilee
Events**



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Committee Meeting

The third meeting to forward plan a number of events over the Jubilee Weekend, will take place in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room on:

Monday 31st January at 7.00pm.

We need more volunteers to get involved.
Please come along you will be most
welcome.

If you are unable to get to this meeting and
want to be involved in subsequent meetings,
please ring Chris on:
01530 414378 or 07856 179485
christopher.miles@sky.com

Big Charity Breakfast

Saturday 5th March is the date set for this fantastic village event.

Open from 9.00am you can just turn up at any time until 1.00pm for the best cooked breakfast served with toast and tea or coffee.

The charity being supported this year is Hospice Hope and you can read all about their exciting plans for the future on page 4.

Debbie Hamilton is the new organiser on behalf of the Memorial Hall Committee.



Can you help the village have another successful Big Breakfast?

You will be asked to give one hour of your time to carry out a wide variety of tasks.

Please volunteer again or maybe for the first time. Meet your neighbours have fun, a natter and a great breakfast.

Contact Debbie
07971 047283

Next Edition: Copy by Wednesday 9th
Out Friday 18th March 2021



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Packington Parish Council

Much of the Council's time over the past months has been spent on planning issues within the Parish and the Village boundary. The on-going development of the Traveller site on Coleorton Lane and the eleven-house development off Ashby Road has been a big part of the Council's concern.

Following a six-month decision process and strong objections by the Parish and parishioners, it was noted that the NWLDC Planning Authority have robustly rejected and refused permission for the twelve caravans and twelve touring caravan application on Coleorton Lane. Because this site is still subject to an appeal to a court order to vacate the site, it may be some time before we see any evidence that this site is being returned to its status as countryside and agricultural land.

The Ashby Road development was objected by the Parish Council for various reasons. It was thought that in principle, some housing would inevitably be difficult to appose and therefore objections to the application were; too many houses on the site; service road on the wrong side of site bringing more congestion near a busy village crossroads; bungalows instead of two/three storey houses; detrimental effect on the Conservation Area status of the surrounding area; loss of trees and hedgerow; foul and surface water drainage concerns. Above all it was felt that the Developer had not listened to the public at the drop in consultation evening and had not taken any suggestions seriously. The Parish precept for 2022 and 2023 had to be resolved in the January meeting and it was decided not to change the Council Tax Precept for the Parish this coming financial year. However, the Clerk, our financial officer, did hint that it may be necessary for it to be increased next year.

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

www.packingtonpc.org.uk

Chris Miles (Chairman)

CPR Training

National Forest Community First Responders (CFRs) provided a free Resuscitation (CPR) and Defibrillator (AED) training session on Sunday 9th January at the Village Hall. It started with a presentation covering the basics of heart function, to help explain what an AED does and when it can be useful. This was followed with a practical session on specialist dummies helping guide people on where and how much physical effort is required to perform effective chest compressions. The training session also covered the guidance on how to perform CPR in the current covid situation.



Initial feedback was very positive although half the team had to leave to attend an emergency 999 call in the village when a member of the public came to collect the hall AED!

Let Louise know if you would be interested in attending a similar course.

Louise Gratton 07793 008906

Calling all Gardeners!

Are you interested in having an allotment? The council have been offered a piece of land that is suitable for allotments. However, there will be some initial financial outlay and work to be done to get the site set up and so they are keen to find out how much interest there would be in taking up an allotment. To find out more or register your interest please contact the Clerk:

Alexandra Stretton

Clerk/RFO to Packington Parish Council

Tel: 07936 359949

clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk



Ashby Rotary Club organized a Children's Party at the Memorial Hall in December. Father Christmas came along and there were lots of games and activities. The sum of £624 was raised for Children's Charities supported by Rotary.

A good crowd came out to watch the Morris Men and Penny Royal Garland Dancers perform at the Bull & Lion on Boxing Day



**Dads v Sons & Daughters football took place on New Year's Day. Once again, the first team to 10 goals was the winner.
Dads 8
Sons & Daughters 10**

HOSPICE HOPE GET GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW DAY CENTRE IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE



A fantastic early Christmas Present was delivered to local charity Hospice Hope on the 22nd of December with planning permission being granted for the construction of their brand-new Day Centre in Swannington. The centre is being built at no cost to the Charity on land provided on a peppercorn lease by North West Leicestershire District Council. The new building will provide a home for services for the charity which supports people across North West Leicestershire with life limiting conditions or who have been diagnosed with a condition that reduces their quality of life and their carers. Offering a wide range of services across the community, including counselling, befriending, support cafés, complimentary therapies and online groups, the new Centre will give the charity a home for offering day care for guests and their carers, in a purpose-built facility.

A TRULY COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

The project will be built on land provided by North West Leicestershire District Council and will be constructed by local housebuilder Bloor Homes. The two organisations have worked with Hospice Hope to create a truly collaborative community project which will provide services within the community for many years to come. Charity Manager, Jim Vickrage said “Our trustees and staff are all looking forward to this year’s exciting plans and work beginning on our new Day Centre and Charity headquarters in January 2022, with completion planned for the end of this year.

After the events of the last couple of years, we are delighted to be able to announce some positive news for the community and this project will help us to provide our services to even more people in our own Centre. We are incredibly grateful for the support from North West Leicestershire District Council and Bloor Homes, whose generosity will make a difference for many years to come.”

The New Day Centre is to be called ‘Bright Hope House’ which will be a part of the plan for the charity to re-brand to its new name—‘Bright Hope’ during 2022. The charity is planning a busy year of fundraising for its new Centre, and would welcome enquires from groups, individuals and companies who would like to get involved with the new project and help the charity with its ambitious plans. We would also like to thank the village as a whole, and village organisations for the tremendous support for Hospice Hope in the past that has enabled us to make this great step forward.

To find out more about the charity and the new building and how you can help them, please contact Hospice Hope at jim@hospicehope.org.uk, visit our website at www.hospicehope.org.uk or call us on 07935 800658. Hospice Hope is a registered charity, number 1169561.

**Peter Last
Trustee of Hospice Hope
Tel 01530 415129**

Village Library Bus

You may, or may not, be aware that Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) mobile library vehicle visits Packington on the first Thursday of each month, with our next visit being on 3rd February. You'll find the vehicle parked at 40 High Street from 2.15pm to 3.00pm.



Anyone who is a member of any LCC library may use the service almost exactly the same as they would any town or village library. If you are not yet a member you can easily apply on line at www.leicestershire.gov.uk and search 'join the library' or you can sign up on the vehicle itself. You will need proof of ID to do this.

This is an excellent resource for the village so if you don't already use this service why not pop along and take a look for yourself.

Rob Taylor, Mobile Library Driver
rob.taylor@leics.gov.uk

Online Library

If you are not able to get to the mobile library you might be interested to know that you can also access Leicestershire Public Libraries' selection of up-to-date ebooks and audiobooks via an app called 'Borrow Box'. This has a similar lending process to the physical library and all you need is a phone, tablet or ereader and your library card number and pin. If it's magazines you prefer then an app called 'Libby' will allow you to access hundreds of free up-to-date magazines.

www.borrowbox.com
www.libbyapp.com

SERVICES AT Holy Rood

Sunday 23rd January
10.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 30th January
10.00am TEAM SERVICE AT MEASHAM

Sunday 13th February
10.00am Baptism Service

Sunday 27th February
10.00am Holy Communion

Coffee Morning

Holy Rood Church
Hope you can join us on the
fourth Wednesday of the
month

10.00am – 12.00noon

Forthcoming dates

Wednesday 26th January

Wednesday 23rd February

Also Books & Jigsaws
available to borrow or swap.
Choose either or both, then
return or exchange next
month

Soup and a Pudding

Friday 18th February

12.00noon – 2.00pm

Join us in Church for a
selection of homemade

soups and puddings

You are welcome to

either turn up on the

day or book a place by

phoning

Anne on 01530 414621

Ruth Burton interview by Amy Powell**New Head of Packington Church of England Primary School**

Ruth Burton has been in her new position for a full term now and is settling in well. She tells us: "All the staff, children and parents have welcomed me with open arms. Along with support from the governors, it has all been a really nice process."

Ruth lives in south Leicestershire with her husband and two children, Oliver (11) and William (9).

After completing a four-year degree in primary education, she has previously worked in two large double entry form schools in Leicestershire – Water Leys in Wigston and Highcliffe in Birstall. Ruth then spent seven years as Head of School at the small rural Church of England school of St Andrews in North Kilworth before taking up her new role as Headteacher at Packington CofE School.

Ruth has taught every year group within the primary phase and her career has led her to be an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) leader, Phase leader, Senior Teacher, Head of School and now Headteacher. During her time at St Andrews, Ruth led the successful village primary school which achieved results in the top 3% of the country.

About her move to Packington School, Ruth said: "I chose Packington as it was a very similar school to the one I had come from, and I wanted to join somewhere with the same ethos. A family school is so important to me where I can be part of the community. I really feel it's important to be in a school where I can make a difference not only to the children but their families as well.

"Packington is full of traditions and full of children who want to take the lead, already I have seen children who have taken the lead in fundraising activities."

Ruth has already started making an impact at the school and implementing projects, particularly around reading and writing. She tells us: "We have already been looking at reading for pleasure – concentrating on giving every child a love of books and a lifelong love of reading. We held a book fair to raise money to help increase our school library so that we can get up to date books that our children want to read, as well as a range of authors the children may not have heard of before.

"This term we are starting a new way of teaching writing called 'the write stuff'. As a school we want to teach children to think carefully about their writing so they concentrate on quality."

Ruth is keen to ensure that every child is supported to be the best that they can be. Telling us of her ambitions for the future, she says: "I want to ensure that the children of Packington have a love of learning and have the opportunities to have some amazing learning experiences, both academically but also within foundation subjects as well. I want all children to be given opportunities in sports, the arts, music and languages to really get them ready for secondary school and beyond."

It's undoubtedly been a tough couple of years and Ruth has joined during a still difficult time. However, as a school they have been looking at what the best things about Packington are and which of these they could keep moving forward, so it will be nice to see some positives coming out after the last couple of years of lockdowns!

We wish Ruth a warm Packington welcome to both the school and the village!

School Office 01530 412425

PC Mark Arjoo retires

Sadly, this will be the final time I write in the Packington Post. I officially retire from Leicestershire Police on 17th February, after completing 30 years' service. I have spent 17 years of those, as the Neighbourhood Officer for the Ashby beat, which encompasses the village of Packington.



Like any other job, it's had its highs and lows, good and bad times, lots of memorable moments, and some that I'd like to forget.

There have been many highlights in my career, including policing the G8 Summits in Birmingham 1998 and Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005; the Olympic Torch Relay through Leicester in 2012; the fantastic street party in Market Street to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee also in 2012; Leicester City FC Champions League matches in 2016/17; HRH and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Leicester on Maundy Thursday in 2017 (and actually seeing them in person); and the many Ashby Remembrance Day Parades (my final one being in 2021, when I had the honour of laying a wreath).

I was also very proud to have received my Long Service and Good Conduct medal in 2012, and be nominated for the Leicestershire Beat Bobby of the Year in 2014.

It's been a pleasure to have worked with and met some fantastic people, both colleagues and members of the local community, many who have become good friends.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the following organisations and people for all the help and support they have given me over the years:

The members of staff and councillors at Ashby Town Council, NWLDC, and Packington Parish Council, the local businesses, schools, churches, sports groups, licensees, community and voluntary groups, Ashby Street Pastors, and the local community as a whole.

There are others, but far too many to mention.

I'd like to think that during the time I've worked in the local area, I've done the job to the best of my ability, and worked with the community to help make a positive difference.

I also hope that I've been professional, approachable, only used my authority as a last resort, and at the same time, gone about my business with a smile on my face and a sense of humour!

Once I have finished, I plan to have a spring and summer sabbatical during which I aim to get all my jobs done at home, attend a caravan course, purchase a caravan, visit various places in the UK that I have never been to, go walking more, start open water swimming, continue with my Rotary Club work, and get to watch more cricket (which will hopefully include England actually winning a test match!!).

By September/October, I want to have found another job, but what that is, I don't yet know, and I suppose it depends on who wants to employ a 50-year-old, cynical, ex-copper!

It's been a privilege to have worked in Ashby and Packington.

You have a fantastic community, one that is the envy of many other areas. Please never forget that, and carry on the great work that you do to make this possible.

That's my time done!
Thank you and goodbye!

Mark

Packington Horticultural Society (PHS) Spring Fair

The team at PHS have been busy planning events for 2022, the first of which will be the **Spring Fair** held at the **Memorial Hall** on **Sunday 3rd April**.

A precursor to the Annual Village Show, the Spring Fair will bring together local businesses, craftspeople and artisan makers to showcase their talents and sell their products.

PHS will also have a stall and will be offering advice and guidance for those wishing to enter items into the Annual Village Show.

Are you a local business or craftsperson?

If you would like to have a stall at the Spring Fair please contact **Jackie MacDonald on kevjack.macdonald@btinternet.com** by the 28th February.

Look out for further details on our Facebook page and in the next issue of the Post.

Christmas Decoration Workshop

Before Christmas, the second additional event hosted by the PHS took place at the Memorial Hall.

This time, Chelsea Flower Show medallist, and Royal Warrant holder, Rosie Mason took around 28 people through the process of making Christmas wreaths and table decorations. Rosie demonstrated and explained her tips and techniques to help the group create their very own beautiful festive displays. Due to the success of the event PHS are hoping to organise another one for this year.



Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news on all our events.

www.facebook.com/packingtonshow

Packington Village History Group (PVHG)

“A Way of Life That Has Gone”: after a successful launch in early December, copies of the Group’s latest publication are still available to purchase, price £5 – contact Robin Boucher as indicated below. The book gives vivid glimpses into life in Packington between the World Wars and is based on oral history interviews with village residents which Group members undertook some years ago.

Subject to any changes in Covid regulations, we will hold our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25th January at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall meeting room. Although masks and ventilation may be required, we would much prefer to meet face-to-face if at all possible. Anyone who is interested in the history of the village will be very welcome to join us.

Contact Robin Boucher. 01530 411638
randbboucher@googlemail.com,

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New PCSO Joins Village Team

Welcome to PCSO Nick Haylings.



Image showing Maddie Fern, Ravenstone PCSO and Nick Haylings, Packington PCSO

We welcome our new village Police Community Support Officer, PCSO Nick Haylings, who served previously as a full Police Officer for 30 years. He was joined in the photo by PCSO Madeleine "Maddy" Fern at a Beat Surgery here in the village in December. It was a miserable wet day, and with only short notice, very few turned up to meet them. Another open meeting has been arranged as follows:

Next Open Meeting
Monday 14th March
10.00am Meeting Room
at the Memorial Hall

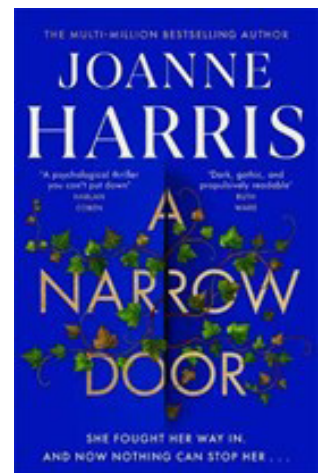
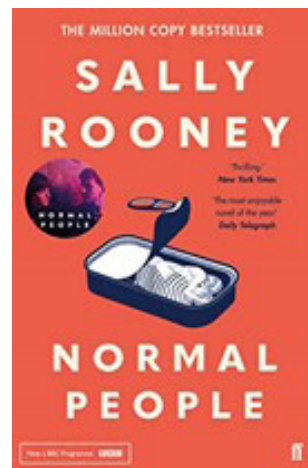
A successor to PC Mark Arjoo (see story page 7) is still to be appointed, so the three current members of the Dedicated Neighbourhood Team for Packington are:

PC 261 Tom Gregory - thomas.gregory@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
 PCSO 6003 Nick Haylings - nicholas.haylings@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
 PCSO 6443 Will Tipper - will.tipper6443@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Packington Book Club

If you enjoy reading but are stuck in a rut or can't think what to read next, do come and join our friendly group as we meet to chat about a wide variety of books. We don't take things too seriously – the only qualification is that you enjoy reading.

On Wednesday 23rd February we will be talking about *Normal People*, a modern love story by Sally Rooney and on Wednesday 23rd March it's *The Narrow Door*, a psychological thriller by Joanne Harris - the author of *Chocolat*.



The book club meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in the meeting room at the Memorial Hall. Just read the book then come along and join us, you will be made very welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

If you would like further information, please contact :

Helen Edgington: Tel: 01530 412808, mob: 07766 086580,
helenmedgington@gmail.com

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RICHARD GREGORY

interviewed by Adrian Mongredien.

By the time you read this Richard Gregory, a long term resident of Packington (42 years in the village) will have moved to a smaller property in nearby Ashby de la Zouch.



Richard was born in Cheltenham and went to school in Gloucestershire. After completing his degree there he took up a teaching post in Leicester. Looking for a more rural situation to bring up an impending family (and after spending a pleasant evening with his school's Head of Design who lived in Packington) he, and his then wife Sharon, purchased 31 High Street Packington, in 1979, from Dorothy Dapp, a former Land lady of the "Bull & Lion" (before Ray Conolly & Eve).

A couple of years later, now with two small children, Tom and Joanna, the Gregory family moved to a larger house at the bottom of Hall Lane.

I asked Richard what it was like when they arrived in Hall Lane. He replied "No gas, coal fires only, no street lamps, pipistrelle bats in the bedroom", but, on the plus side, the rural sounds of sheep & cows by day, and owls hooting at night, and his children could play relatively safely in the lane.

His cherished memories of Packington include, Christmas Brownie Pantomimes at the Village Hall with Ken & Pam English for which he designed and constructed the scenery, the Annual Summer Carnival through the 1980s, and 90s in which he played a part collecting "white goods" for their stall, and, the highlight of being involved in the organisation of the Carnival Procession which was made up of floats, built on tractor trailers and flat-bed lorries from Sumnall's farm. The floats processed from the Pub up High Street, down Normanton Road, and then along "millionaires row" and into Mill Street. Richard is still convinced that the "Captain Pugwash" float that he helped construct one year, from discarded wooden panels at school, should have easily won First Prize but for the apparent bias towards more "amateur" floats by the chief "judge"! But he is not bitter! – Well, only a little bit!

Richard remembers constructing a "Youth Club" float for one Carnival featuring "Cleopatra & the Egyptians" which included two pyramids. He thinks they won that year but others might remember differently.



One of the many colourful floats that paraded at the Packington Carnival.

Richard also became involved in the running of the Tuesday evening "youth club" at the Village Hall after Ray Connolly and Eve, who had started it a couple of years earlier, decided to concentrate their efforts on running the "Bull & Lion". With help from others including Ray Coxon they organised games, Table Tennis matches, and Charity Walks. Richard remembers leading a group of about a dozen teenagers on an all-night walk in the Peak District and arriving at their destination to find Ray Coxon had a cooked breakfast waiting for them. Happy days! No space to write about his role at Ravenstone Football Club but others will remember how valuable his contribution was to their success.

Richard is rightly proud that the prize-winning logo you see on the top of each copy of Packington Post was designed by one of his 12 year-old pupils at Ivanhoe College as a design task he set for his students.

He was also on the Editorial Team of the Packington Post for its first 23 issues, and was a member of the "Village Steering Group" which oversaw the ground-breaking "2002 Village Appraisal" from which so many village improvements have ensued

Richard told me he will look back with great pleasure on his years in Packington which saw his children grow up here, become involved in a great community, and both get married in Packington Church. I asked him what he will miss most on leaving Packington? He replied: "long standing friends, the stream, and the peace!"

I'm sure we would all like to thank him for his huge contribution to our village community over the last forty plus years and wish him well in Western Close.

Post Contacts

Editor
Mike Coke - 560430
editor@packington.info
Amy Powell - 07739 365205

Treasurer
Chris Hammond - 415764

Editorial Team
Adrian Mongredien - 564613
Pippa David - 417660

Website
Robert Dilworth - 411673
robert@packington.info

Alerts
Stephen Plummer - 412963
alerts@packington.info

Welcome Pack
Becky Taylor - 411027

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**MEMORIAL HALL
Saturday 5th March
9.00am - 1.00pm**

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