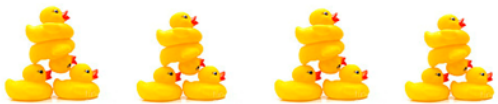


YOUR INVITATION TO PACKINGTON DUCK RACE



**August Bank Holiday Monday
29th August**

5.30pm

GILAWISKAW BROOK, MILL ST

**THREE RACES + CUSTOMISED DUCK
RACE - CASH PRIZES**

You are invited to the annual Duck Race.
Bring your friends and relatives and enjoy a
relaxing evening.

**You can enter your own duck in the special
customised duck race and win a cash prize.
Entry £1.00**

Make your own customised duck and
remember, there will be a prize for the most
creative or amusing!!!

Duck Race Tickets £1.00 sold on the night
or in advance from Committee Members.

BBQ and soft drinks available

Welcome Pack

This pack is presented personally to new
arrivals in our village. We need your help to
make sure no-one is missed.

If you see one of these



or one of these



Then please get in touch with Becky
Taylor who will either, deliver direct to the
newcomer, or pass on to you to take to your
new neighbour.

Becky Taylor
Tel: 01530 411027

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Packington Post

www.packington.info

July 2022

issue no 115

£1.50 (Village residents free)

Fabulous Celebrations....Well Done Packington

Congratulations to the organising committee for the village celebrations to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

There was an event to suit everyone, the young and not so young. Full report and photos inside.



Chris Miles, Chairman of the Parish Council said "What a wonderful four days. Huge thanks to all who gave their time to make things happen and to all the sponsors who loaned and gave things. Special mention to The Parish Council and The Memorial Hall Committee who were the main sponsors and to all of you who came to the events. Well done, Packington."

Line up of Events to come

August 29th Bank Holiday Monday will see the return of the ever-popular **Open Gardens**. Passports will be available at the Memorial Hall to visit many local gardens from 2.00pm. Details on page 4

From 5.30pm on the same day will be **The Duck Race** on the Gilawiskaw. As usual there will be three races plus the custom duck race. Details on page 16



Saturday September 3rd will be the **Annual Packington Village Show**. This popular event is held in the Memorial Hall. Full timings and details on page 5



Next Edition: Copy by Wednesday 14th
Out Friday 23rd Sept 2022



Packington Post
www.packington.info

Packington Parish Council

Two general meetings have been held since the last report. Most of the business discussed was updating the Council on previous issues. Those relating to the Local Authority and the County Authority were disappointing, making only slow progress. The question, of what is happening on Coleorton Lane, was again raised and it was reported that further development on this illegal site had taken place. It was resolved that due to the Local Authority's lack of communication over the matter, that a further meeting with them be arranged as a matter of urgency. Both month's Police reports showed a fall in the number of incidents and there were no criminal events. However, we urge residents not to drop their guard in looking after their property and possessions.

You can find out more about the Parish Council meetings by reading their minutes on the Council's web site at www.packingtonpc.org.uk

Chris Miles (Chairman)

Packington Memorial Hall

Wanted Urgently - A Treasurer

The Memorial Hall Chairman would like to hear from you if you could help out with the Memorial Hall's finances. We have really been blessed with a number of excellent Treasurers in the past. Our current Treasurer, Nicola, has to leave the post by the end of July! Unfortunately, she is moving to East Anglia where her husband is taking a new job. Nicola has fitted in and done a terrific job of organising the finances of the Hall and is really sorry she is leaving for pastures new.

If you think you could help out in this area, please get in touch as soon as possible. To find out more please ring or email.

Chris Miles (Chairman Memorial Hall Trustees)

Tel: 01530 414378
Mob: 07856179485
e-mail: christopher.miles@sky.com

Recreation Ground Charity

Dear Residents,

It has come to our attention that the amount of dog mess left on the playing field has increased enormously over the last six months. There are signs which say, "Dogs to be kept on leads". This is not being adhered to by quite a number of dog owners and because of this we believe it makes it more difficult to know whether your dog has left a nasty deposit on the playing field.

The Trustees propose to make more signage (every entrance) which says, "Dogs to be kept on leads at all times". I am sure the residents of Packington wish their children and other users to be safe on the Recreation Ground and urge all dog owners to observe the signage. If you have your dog on a lead and see another which is not, please politely refer them to the notices.

Thank you.
The Trustees.

Editors Note: There is a procedure for reporting dog fouling at: nwleics@gov.uk

Police Beat Surgery



PCSO Nick Hayling is holding a Beat Surgery at:

Memorial Hall on Monday 22nd August
10.00am and 12:00 noon.

Please come along and share your views and any concerns you may have.

nicholas.haylings@leics.police.uk

1st Packington Brownies

Brownies have had an exciting term finishing with a campfire and singalong at Conkers.



We have completed our space badge designing astronaut equipment, learning star constellations and creating a sunspot viewer. The baking badge challenged everyone to bake a story. Three Little Pigs, Humpty Dumpty and The Gingerbread Man all appeared!



Brownies also had a go at designing their own family name tartan.



We will be starting back in September and continue to meet at Hill Farm on a Tuesday evening from 5.45pm – 7.00pm. If you would like to join us and are aged between 7 – 10 years old, please contact Janice Sumnall, Brownie Guider on **01530 411984** or email **hillfarmpackington@hotmail.co.uk**

Thank you from Hospice Hope



Stuart Shepherd, Chairman of Hospice Hope, writes "I am writing to thank you, the Packington Memorial Hall Committee and your team of volunteers, for making the Big Breakfast such a resounding success. We were naturally delighted to receive your donation of £2021.81 into our Charity's bank account.

This wonderful donation will help us to run our services providing much needed support to local people, and their carers, with conditions that either limit the quality or length of their lives.

A Warm Welcome to our Visitors from Ukraine! Провіт

Our delightful guests arrived a few weeks ago and many of you will already have seen them out and about in the village or in the shop.



Vira, who comes from the Poltava region of Ukraine and is currently staying with Liz and Richard, on High Street is on the right. The other two are Viktoriia, and her 9-year-old son Mark, who fled from Mariupol, and are living with Lesley Birtwhistle in Nethercroft Drive.

Of course, they have traumatic stories to tell and listening to the news from their homeland is often a distressing experience for them. Everything has been destroyed or stolen from their apartments and businesses. However, they are settling in well here and they frequently comment upon how friendly everyone is and how everyone wants to offer their support. Mark's English is limited and understandably he was nervous about going to the village school, but everyone made him very welcome there too and he soon joined in and made friends.

As well as a brief introduction, this is by way of a plea for help! Both Vira and Viktoriia would dearly like to obtain some paid employment, although of course for Viktoriia, the job hours would have to fit in with caring for Mark.

Vira is learning English but has a limited vocabulary – in Ukraine she worked as a thermo-couple operator in an electronics plant.

Viktoriia's English is very good. Her background is that of a lawyer and in running her own business importing goods for re-sale. If any of you know of suitable

vacancies - or have contacts who might do - please get in touch, using the email viktoriiasm@outlook.com.

Finally, Vira and Viktoriia have friends who are still seeking sponsors in this country, so do please think about offering a home to a guest and mention it to others – the initial commitment is for 6 months – and if you want to know more, then please email me, Lesley Birtwhistle lbwistle@googlemail.com

Editors note: already steps are being taken to accommodate a friend of Viktoriia, also from Mariupol, in the village. Currently she is in one room in a hotel with two strangers near Dublin.

More information on what is involved on:-
<https://apply-to-offer-homes-for-ukraine.service.gov.uk>

Packington Village History Group

The Group was pleased to contribute to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations: special thanks go to Sue Brown and Robert Dilworth for the displays at the Saturday afternoon cream tea event.

We are now looking forward to working on a retrospective of Packington's carnivals (see Adrian Mongredien's article in this edition of the Post). If you have any material from the carnivals, or happy memories to share, do come along to our session on the afternoon of Monday 8th August.

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

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PACKINGTON CARNIVALS: 1973-2000

Notice of a forthcoming Event at Packington Memorial Hall.

Packington Village History Group (PVHG) is looking to expand its records of the annual summer Carnivals held in Packington between the first Carnival in 1973 until the millennium. The History Group would like to obtain first-hand accounts of how the annual Carnival started, how many people were involved in the organisation of successive Carnivals, and what impact the Carnivals had on our village community.

To start the ball rolling: PVHG has booked Packington Memorial Hall on the afternoon of: Monday 8th August 2022 from 2.30pm to 5.00pm to assemble as many personal recollections, and as much photographic material of past Carnivals as we can.

We would ask anyone interested in attending to give some thought to the following questions.....as far as you can remember!!

1. What was your involvement with the Carnivals and when did you start being involved? Were you on the organising committee at any point? How many Carnivals did you attend in this period? (a) as a child? (b) as an adolescent? (c) as an adult?
3. What was your favourite part of the Carnival events? Have you any specific memory (memories) of a particular Carnival you would be happy to put on record?
4. Did you ever take part in a Carnival Procession and if so, what was the theme of the float you were on, or were involved with?
5. Have you any photographic or film record of Carnival events in this period which you would be happy to share with your local History Group? Do you know of other people who might be prepared to share their memories, including photographs, with PVHG? Maybe someone who used to live in the village but has now moved away.

If you have suitable photographs, 35mm transparencies, or cine film of Carnivals in this period that you would be happy to share with us please contact one of the following:

Robin Boucher

randbboucher@googlemail.com

Nev Bray

nevbray@hotmail.com

Adrian Mongredien

adrian.mongredien@gmail.com

As soon as possible please so that plans can be made, where practical, to download your pictures prior to the event.

If we obtain enough material of general interest PVHG may put on an exhibition at the Memorial Hall this winter for villagers and local residents of all ages to come and see our records of last century's biggest annual social event in Packington. So, please check out your memories, your family photo albums, your lofts and attics for long forgotten photographs, colour slides and 8mm film and any other memorabilia of this now bygone age, and get in touch.



Packington Carnival 2005

Packington Open Gardens is back! But only just!

August Bank Holiday Monday 29th
2.00pm-7.00pm

Geoff Gasson is hanging up his hat, and after a two-year break because of Covid, I have agreed to see if we can get it going again. We are nearly there, but at least two or three more gardens would be great. For very good reasons, a number of regulars are not able to open this year, so we have some gaps on the map.

Perhaps one or two new gardens in Century Drive or Hall Farm Close would be good, and I can't believe there aren't some beautiful gardens in Homecroft and Nethercroft after all the time folk were forced to be in their gardens with Covid restrictions. If you would like to give it a try, do get in touch as soon as possible to discuss it. An extra garden offering either teas, or maybe squash and biscuits would also be welcome.

Because it is a 'village event', it is the sum of all the parts that makes it, so even a small garden adds a facet to the jewel that is Packington Open Gardens.

There will be teas in the Memorial Hall and Church, so volunteers to help are very welcome. We are planning one or two stalls at the hall as well including pre-loved garden tools, and second-hand books. Donations to these would be welcome. We are open to a craft stall or similar if there is someone with a strong village connection who would be interested.

We are also looking for some further volunteers to help with the car park. Proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church in the village. Some significant work on a wall is needed, so any money raised is likely to help with that.

If you can spare some time to help with any aspects of this event please do get in touch and it would greatly appreciated.

**Nick Gravestock, 01530,416710, or
email blutiles@leicester.anglican.org
or text 07766 600594**

Packington Midgecroft Lillibet arrives!

In the early hours of 22nd May 2022 our new shire foal Lillibet arrived after mum (Anna) had been in labour for what seemed like days (and nights!). Both are doing well and enjoying the sunshine in the fields. Lillibet is very friendly and curious, especially around new visitors to the farm, and readily comes to the field gate to say hello.



This is the second pedigree shire foal Anna has had and continues the Packington stud name.

Pascha born in April 2020 now stands at 17.2h and has still not reached his final height! He is about to be going away to be broken and learn to pull implements before returning to the farm in September.

Historically the Packington Blind Stallion, generally recognised as the founder of the Shire Horse breed was at stud from 1755 – 1770 in Packington village. He was black and appears in the first Shire Stud Book due to the large number of direct descendants from him. He also had white legs, the same as Anna and her youngsters. We are proud to be able to assist in the continuation of the Shire Horse breed. You are welcome to see the shires during café opening times at:
**Hill Farm, Spring Lane
Wednesday – Saturday 10.00am – 3.00pm
and Sunday 10.00am – 1.00pm.**

*Yes, the spelling of Packington is correct.
The new foals could not be registered as
Packington!*

Pirates of the Curry Bean

The pupils in Year 5&6, supported by those in Year 3&4, put on a production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' which was a huge success! From beginning to end the children performed so well, getting into character, dancing and singing their hearts out. Huge congratulations to all the children who took part as well as the adults who made it possible! Thank you to all of our families for coming along to watch and support the children's hard work.

Science Fair

This year's science fair was all about 'Growth' and we had lots of fantastic ideas displayed by the children in Key Stage 2. We were lucky to have a group of judges from scientific backgrounds who took the time to discuss all of the entries with the children. After a lot of discussion and debate two groups were chosen as the Packington Science Fair winners: Blythe & Isobel and William & Jack. These children then went onto represent the school at the Ashby Science Fair, where William & Jack secured 3rd place overall. Well done to everyone who took part, we were very impressed with your creativity.



Sports Day & Saffron Lane

We had a busy time with Sports in June starting with our traditional Sports Day morning held on the recreation ground. The children put great effort into all of the events to support their House Teams. We arranged for Sports Leaders from Ivanhoe to come along to help and support pupils and their words of encouragement helped spur the

pupils on. We then sent around 25 children from Key Stage 2 to Saffron Lane for the area athletics competition. All of the children tried their best in their events and showed great team spirit.



Music Assembly

At Packington, our children from Year 2 upwards have the opportunity to take part in music lessons for Piano, Flute or Guitar. The children who have been taking part in music lessons this year held a music concert for the rest of the school to enjoy. For lots of the children this was their first experience of performing in front of an audience and they all did amazingly well! We are very proud of all of them, it takes a lot of commitment and perseverance to learn to play an instrument.

New Starters

Our new pupils who will start in Reception at the end of August have now completed three induction visits. We have been really impressed with how well they have made new friends and got stuck in to all the different activities in the classroom. We look forward to welcoming them fully in the new academic year.

School Office 01530 412425

Packington Memorial Hall

Firstly, thank you all for your continued support of the Memorial Hall be it through attending events held there or booking it for events of your own. It is very much a community asset.

The busiest weekend in recent times would of course be Jubilee Weekend as covered on pages 6-9. However, it would be remiss of the Committee not to thank all those involved in setting up the events at the hall including the Cream Teas and the Friday Night Extravaganza. A lot of hard work very much appreciated.

The hall continues to be very busy with regular bookings as well as a steady stream of individual hirers for parties and celebration events. The big "Post Lockdown" rush of children's parties having now subsided a little we are back to pre 2020 hiring patterns.

Listed below are a number of the regular weekly bookings, for those who may not be aware of what is offered at the hall:

Monday: Zumba Gold, Yoga

Tuesday: Art Class, Yoga, Sewing Group, Pilates

Wednesday: Seated Pilates, Table Tennis, Yoga

Thursday: Yoga, Packington Penguins

Friday: Pilates

We also have monthly regular bookings from; Packington Lunch Club, Packington History Group, Ivanhoe Gardening Group, Postnatal Mum & Baby Yoga, Children's First Aid, Canine First Aid, Parkinson's Fitness Group Socials, Film Club, U3A History and Gardening Groups.

In the Autumn we welcome back some more regular bookings and a few new ones:

Monday: Children's Drama Group, Rainbows

Wednesday: Postnatal Mum & Baby Fitness

Thursday: Board Games Group, Children's Martial Arts, Loughborough Table Tennis

Our local EMAS First Responders also use the hall for critical care bi monthly training and annual requalification exams.



Our local EMAS First Responders all received Jubilee Awards at the Memorial Hall this month.

Bookings are live on our website if you wish to check availability www.pmhv.uk/book-a-venue/ and we have a reduced rate for those who live in the Parish.

A real breadth of use benefitting the community and providing activities for many. The hall is a registered charity and totally run by volunteers – everything is invested back into the hall for upkeep, maintenance and improvements. We always welcome new volunteers who have a few hours a month to help with anything from opening up/closing after individual bookings, supporting the committee with admin and decisions, to being our new Treasurer (see page 2 for further information).

Please feel free to email bookings@pmhv.uk or call **07793 008906** with any questions. Many of our regular hirers place articles and advertise in the Post but if you want to know about any of the groups then get in touch via phone, text, email Facebook etc. - all communication channels are open!

Louise Gratton, Bookings Secretary

2022 Packington Annual Village Show

Are your potatoes looking perfect and your muffins smelling marvellous? Because it's not long to go until this year's Annual 2022 Village Show, which will be held on **Saturday 3rd September** at the Memorial Hall.

It was great to see many familiar faces, as well as lots of new ones, for last year's show after covid restrictions were lifted. We are looking forward to welcoming you all again to make our 79th show as successful as ever.

The show will feature the usual sections for home grown vegetables and flowers plus items of craftwork as well as some newer options, such as Sloe Gin in our Homebrew section. The popular baking section has a variety of categories from savoury to sweet including sausage rolls and home baked bread to cakes and Banana Bread.

There are also sections for children such as designed miniature garden, decorated stones and cupcakes. It's a great opportunity for everyone to get involved, whether you want to showcase your skills and enter or simply just want to take a look at the fabulous pieces the many talented gardeners, bakers, crafters and photographers in the community have created.



Food and refreshments will be available in the evening along with a raffle and the auctioning off of all the produce.

The Show Guide will be available and distributed to homes around the village throughout August and contains information on all the categories, including entry forms, as well as details for the day itself.

As usual all money raised from the show will go to various village organisations including,

Seniors Lunch Club, Brownies, Guides, Table Tennis Club, Church as well as other deserving organisations such as Rainbows, Hospice Hope and the Air Ambulance.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/packingtonshow for up-to-date news about the show.

Royal Garden Party for Daybreak Team

Packington's very own Pete and Rachel Swift, owners of Daybreak Services, were rubbing shoulders with Royalty recently on a visit to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Following an anonymous letter singing the praises of the staff at Daybreak Services during the pandemic, Pete had been nominated by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire to attend the palace bash.

The event took place on Wednesday 25th May and as usual Pete was up at 3.30am to head to market, but was under strict instructions to be home for 9.00am to get suited and booted ahead of the trip down to London. Pete and Rachel arrived at the Palace at 3.00pm and despite light showers of rain had a fantastic afternoon walking around the Palace Gardens and catching a glimpse of William and Kate as they mingled with the crowd.



When the Packington Post caught up with Pete, he described it as "a once in lifetime experience" which both he and Rachel thoroughly enjoyed. Pete was also quick to highlight that although it was himself and Rachel who attended, the nomination and recognition was for all of the staff at the shop who had consistently gone above and beyond through the recent difficult times to serve the village and the wider community.

Congratulations to all at Daybreak Services!

Your Village Celebrated as Never Before

70th Platinum Jubilee Report

Thursday 2nd June

Over forty participants played a rounders tournament and everyone taking part really enjoyed playing this typically English game. Teams with a mixture of youth and experience played games lasting thirty minutes. Some slogging the ball for miles and others putting massive amounts of energy and missing completely.

There was a sizeable crowd supporting the games and encouraging words were shouted giving the event a real feel-good factor. We should do more of this was said by many. The winning team, "The Golden Oldies", who won all their matches, did especially well. The team included, Bailey Baker, Tom Dallow, Olivia Dallow, Samuel Sharpe, Joe Tebbett, Fin Brown, Lucas Brown and Anthony Brown plus three or four more players shying away from media coverage.

As the daylight began to fade the tractor making final preparations to the beacon arrived. Matt our newly crowned "Fire Master", balanced the final sections of the beacon in place and with the aid of his "Cherry Picker" he began preparations to light the beacon. Bang on 9.45pm, when all the beacons in the country were lit, so did Packington's. With the aid of the Cherry Picker, the eight metre-tall wooden construction was lit at the top and within seconds it was a mass of flames, licking further upwards towards the sky.



A brilliant job; "more like a beacon than a beacon", "wow!", "What a sight!" said others. Phones were out taking pictures and in a few short minutes the whole structure was alight. Well done! Matt, Bob and Dave, who had helped with this successful project. Well done everybody. A great evening!

Friday 3rd June

On Friday morning a small gathering of thirty people saw the Platinum Jubilee Oak planted in the new graveyard, together with a commemorative plaque. This marked the start of what the village hopes will be the first of many trees planted in this Jubilee year. It will form a response to the Queen's wish for a Green Canopy. Lesley Birtwhistle presided over the proceedings while the Chairman of the Parish Council added a few words. Then with the help of Councillor Robert Martin the oak tree was in place, and we hope will be present for many, many years.



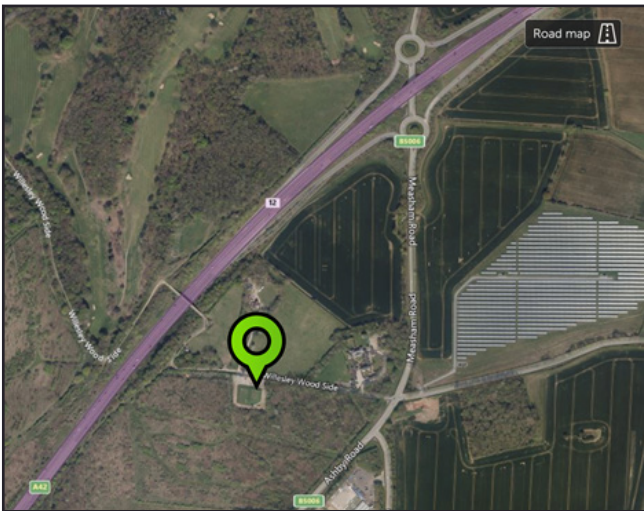
The Friday Extravaganza was a huge success. The Fish and Chip Van was brilliant. They served ninety meals within the hour, and everyone thought they were delicious. Towards the end of the meal, Packington's resident saxophonist, Nicola, played some terrific well-known tunes and by the end of her show many of her audience were humming or singing along with her. Robin Boucher, Chairman of Packington History Society, then gave a word perfect, rhyming, monologue with recollection of

Packington Preservation Project 452

Have you seen our local triangulation station?



This concrete plinth, about a metre high, is on top of Severn Trent Water's covered reservoir, located at the high point of the Willesley Wood Side lane, just across the 5-ways junction at the end of our Measham Road, in green below



Thanks to com for this map segment fixmystreet.

It is marked on early maps as a "**Trig Point**" with a triangle and the figures **452**, the number of feet above sea level. More modern maps label it as 138, the elevation in metres.

Did you know that there were **6,500 of these plinths**, and they were constructed on high points around the UK between **1935 and 1962**? They enabled our Ordnance Survey to re-make really accurate maps of the whole of UK, using survey theodolites to accurately measure triangles - hence "triangulation stations".

The plinths are obsolete - these days, satellites enable accurate surveying far more easily than foot-slogging with heavy theodolites to the tops of hills! Over recent decades, a number of the plinths have been lost, dug up for housing estates or overgrown by hedges or trees - they weren't all on barren hill tops. Local groups have rescued some as historic souvenirs of the age of Ordnance Survey map-making.



Shall we do the same for ours? It is threatened by HS2, which is to cut straight through this reservoir. The HS2 spur to the East Midlands is authorised and they'll be building the line past our village in the years to come, eliminating our **Trig Point 452**. You may have already noticed HS2 viaduct work alongside our M42 motorway further down.

Where would you like it to be placed in our village? Opposite the Round House? The Coleorton Lane triangle? Mill Street? At a high point on the Recreation Ground? Your ideas would be welcomed.

Do please have a think about how **this small monument, a fascinating piece of our nation's history**, could be preserved in our village for posterity - **or lost forever**. Our Parish Councillors have agreed to include this on their Agenda - one of them is an experienced surveyor and used these stations in the early 1980s. So, do please contact your councillors with your suggestions for this **Project 452**, by email to clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk, or tell our Packington Post Editor by email to editor@packington.info Thank you!

Robert Dilworth of Packington Village History Group, PVHG

Sunday Services at Holy Rood

14th August 10.30am Holy Communion

28th August 10.30am Holy Communion

The Bells of Holy Rood Church

Wasn't it nice to hear the Bells of Packington church ring out at various times over the Jubilee period? They were timed to co-ordinate with the national and local events and enhanced the feeling of celebration.

For a long time, the Bells were silent and now the new team of ringers, who have practiced a lot, have worked wonders. The peels are becoming more varied and the new ringers are mastering the art of campanology.

Thank you and well done the team!



HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION IN PACKINGTON MAY 2022

The House-to-House envelope collection in Packington raised a total of **£896.18**

A big thank you to everyone who helped distribute the envelopes and to all who generously donated.

Doreen Gasson, Christian Aid Rep. in Packington.

Ready Steady Stick
Tuesday 23rd August 2-4pm
Measham Church Hall, High Street,
Measham DE12 7HZ



Looking at our environment with
a mixture of games, story, crafts and more
For all children under 11 years of age
(who need to be accompanied by a
responsible adult).

£1 a child.

Come along and have fun

Contact stlaurencewarden@gmail.com

Or 07906444976

Coffee and Chat

Holy Rood Church

Monthly coffee mornings

Every 4th Wednesday of the month
10am till 12 noon

Come along and enjoy a tea/coffee,
cookies and homemade cake

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

Also

Date for your diaries

Afternoon Tea

Friday 16th September

2.30pm till 4.30pm

times in the early years of her Majesty's reign. It was amazing content, funny, poignant and for some of us triggering memories of days long past. Then followed three sketches performed by Terry Hammond and his friends from the Venture Theatre. The sketches were based on some past radio programs such as The Goon Show. The audience were in stitches, many of whom remember the original broadcast.



This was followed by a twenty-minute video tribute to the Queen's seventy-year reign. It was another reminder of how dedicated she was, from her early years to the present, in service to the people, country and Commonwealth.

Following the video were another three short sketches which were highly entertaining particular the two Ronnies, "four candles". Thank you Venture Theatre for making us laugh, you were brilliant.

Then followed a short quiz based on the previous video presentation and it was eyes down and concentration. It was quite a rapid-fire quiz, and each table had the chance to get a free drink at the bar if they won. The winning team, "The Lunch Club Ladies" managed to score nineteen correct answers from twenty-one questions.

The evening concluded with a rousing singsong with Chris Miles on piano and Nicola on saxophone who had selected a number of well know chart hits over the period of the Queen's reign. A great evening of variety and fun. Thank you to all who came and to those who did so well in performing.

Oh! Nearly forgot. Thank you to all those who made trifles for desert - AMAZING!!

Saturday 4th June



What a day! Another two events! In the afternoon, a gentle cream tea served so delightfully by a team of willing workers who organised the event so wonderfully. In charge was Debbie Hamilton (who organised this year's Big Charity Breakfast) but as she was abroad on holiday prior to the cream tea event, her band of workers did her proud and sorted out many of the logistics in her absence. I'm sure there was a hotline to the tropics nearly every day.

During the afternoon Nicola, again on saxophone, entertained quietly in the background playing a range of great music producing a wonderful atmosphere. Thank you Nicola, Debbie and your ladies for a brilliant event.

Party in the Park

The stage was parked up. (Thank you to Aaron whose haulage company loaned us a 40-foot curtain sided trailer.) The weather was coldish but dry. The arena was set.



Gazebos arrived throughout the day and by 6.30pm most people had arrived and were settling in. The youngsters were called upon to have some fun and games in the arena. Chris Miles was there with mic in hand to get them organised and the first game was played. The Packington Dash came next with some spirited running by all age groups. Winners were awarded medals and before you knew it the games time was over.

It was 7.30pm already! Time for the live group to take centre stage for their first set. "Part Time Heroes" were great and were appreciated by all.



Then DJ Callum took to the stage and entertained with a great selection of chart toppers and music which appealed to all.

Mention here must be made of A&J Bartlett Ltd of Ashby for loaning Callum the sound and electrical equipment. Thank you!



Following the DJ set, "Part Time Heroes" returned again and the dancing began to warm up with may more taking to the floor/

grass to show their moves. Again, the group's set was wildly applauded. Callum then returned to finish the night with the crowd chanting 'more! more!' Needless to say, Callum had to keep playing and only after 'Sweet Caroline', on its third play of the evening, were proceedings wrapped up at about 11.30pm.



Another great Party in the Park. Thanks everyone for turning up and to those who volunteered to organize, Terry; Rachael; Callum; Steve; Dave; Bob; Zac and Louise, (our resident first responder)

Sunday 5th June

Another two events on this day. A well-attended Church Service (Songs of Praise) commenced at 10.30am with songs chosen by those present and accompanied by Chris Miles on the organ. The service was led by Lesley Birtwhistle who gave a short message.

Hymns ranged from the quiet and reflective to the rousing and powerful. For example, "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace", "Jerusalem", "I Vow to Thee My Country" and "How Great Thou Art". In all, eleven songs were sung including the National Anthem at the end of the Service.

Thank you Lesley for organising this service.



Street Party

The dry weather left us on the day we most needed it. Organisers pulled the plug on the street part of the event the night before and let as many as possible know via social media sites that it would be a children and parent event in the Memorial Hall. It proved a good decision as the drizzle and cold persisted all day.

All children had a seat at tables and were served food and drink, whilst the bar was open for the adults. The Balloon Man was in demand, and he managed to fashion some amazing requests from the young people. His hands and fingers were moving incredibly fast, and he worked throughout the afternoon. Just brilliant!

A fancy-dress parade took place in the centre of the hall and the winners were presented with a prize from Bev from Poochies Café, who not only sponsored this event but also made all ninety of the food boxes. Thank you, Bev.

The Platinum Jubilee was a remarkable milestone in the Royal Family's history and probably will never be repeated. With this in mind, the organisers felt that a lasting memento should be given to Packington's young people and so, everyone under thirteen, was given a limited edition fifty pence piece made by the Royal Mint. In addition, they also received a special Platinum Jubilee medal for attending the party.

Special thanks for organising the party go to Debbie, Sophie and to everyone else who contributed to the successful event, despite the Arctic conditions outside. Thank you!



Lighting the Beacon

Jessica Wathes, aged 8, shares her account of her dad lighting the Jubilee beacon:

On Thursday 2nd of June, Chris Miles gathered children, adults and teenagers to play four rounds of rounders.

After that, the beacon was finished being built by Bob Parry, Dave Gammon and Matt Wathes. It stood 5 metres tall.

At 10.00pm, Matt climbed up the beacon and set it alight. The flames went up past the top off the beacon by 3m higher!

Matt moved his Manitou (tractor) in case a chunk of the beacon fell on it.

A while later, a chunk did fall down, but luckily not on the manitou and the warmth spread across the park.

Around 11.00pm, people began leaving the park and heading home - everyone agreed a good night was had by all.

As we all were asleep, broken wood fell and ash fluttered everywhere. A long while later, the warmth and the light slowly died out.

Platinum Jubilee Coins

The Jubilee Committee have some souvenir coins left over. If you live in Packington and have a child thirteen or under who has not received a Jubilee souvenir coin, please message **Chris on 07856 179485** giving name and address. He will then contact you to collect at the end of July. The limited supply will be issued on a "first come first served basis".