



SERVING UP A COMMUNITY FEAST!

Another Successful Big Breakfast

Once again, the Packington charity Big Breakfast came up trumps.



Organiser, Debbie Hamilton's team of volunteers provided excellent service in the Memorial Hall while Alison Ewing took control in the kitchen, keeping the cooks on the go.



A big thank you to all the volunteers and to everyone who turned out to support this popular village event. Altogether 241 breakfasts were served and along with the raffle around **£1,500** has been raised for Hospice Hope. You can read the exciting news about Bright Hope House on page 15.

Coming Up in this Issue...

Coronation



Plans for Packington's Coronation celebrations – see page 9.

Parish Council Elections



Do you want to join our village Parish Council? The **deadline for nominations is Tuesday 4th April at 4:00pm**. Find out all you need to know about nominating yourself as a councillor on page 8.

Village News and Events

PHS Spring Fair on page 6
Circus comes to Packington on page 16
Community Choir on page 6
Classic Car Meet on page 10
Plus much more...

Parish Council has met twice since the last issue of the Packington Post.

Questions from Members of the Public

These included concerns involving; the traveller site on Coleorton Lane; the forthcoming Public Inquiry and subsequently its outcome; which Councillors would be standing again for re-election at the May Local Council Elections.

Crime in the Village

February saw the worst crime figures for some time. There was an assault, two burglaries and a road traffic accident involving a drunk driver. The Council urges residents to remain vigilant and keep all doors locked and report any suspicious activity.

Coleorton Lane. Illegal Campsite

The Chairman read a factual report of the proceedings of the Public Inquiry which will then be published as an article in the Packington Post to inform all residents – see page 3. A decision notice is expected within a three-month period.

Traffic Calming

The County Council Highways has still not come back with any results of their traffic survey at the time of writing this report.

The Council is putting all the traffic calming data from neighbouring villages together and will present this at the April meeting.

Footpath Sign

The Highways Authority has rejected, on safety grounds, a request from the Parish for a footpath sign between Hall Lane and Homecroft Drive.

Village CCTV System Neighbourhood Watch

The Council is arranging a public meeting in order to explain the Village CCTV operation and to combine this with a Neighbourhood Watch update. A date for this will be arranged after the May elections.

Coronation

Final stages of preparations were shown to the Council at the March meeting and this can be seen in the special report on Coronation celebrations on page 9.

Please use the Council's web site for more information www.packingtonpc.org.uk

Chris Miles, Chairman

Elections

Local Parish Council elections are coming up on **Thursday 4th May 2023**.

The Memorial Hall will be the designated polling station and it's important to remember that in order to vote at these elections you will now need photo ID. If you don't have the accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.



For more information visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk and search 'voter ID'

If you are interested in running for the position of Parish Councillor you can find out more about the process on page 8.

Packington Memorial Hall

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at the hall on **Tuesday March 21st at 6.30pm** and will be followed by a Committee Meeting straight afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM and any prospective volunteers who wish to help out with the running of the hall are welcome to attend the Committee Meeting afterwards to express their interest.

Please contact the Chairman **Chris Miles** if you have any questions regarding the AGM on **07856 179485**.

Public Inquiry Coleorton Lane Traveller Camp

The inquiry began on Tuesday 28th February, included a site visit on Thursday 2nd March and concluded at lunchtime on Friday 3rd March.

The proceedings began with opening remarks by the Inspector and he had assurances from both parties that the points that had been previously agreed on remained. At this point he did say that he had received a written submission from Packington Parish Council and confirmed they had written in support of the local District Council and there were no new points in the document.

The inspector then called for the appellant's highways expert to give his evidence in support of his written submission that the inspector had received twenty-eight days prior to the hearing. This highways expert was particularly led by his council and both tried to say that the poor visibility of the site's access and the findings by the Highways Authority on the stopping distances were not sufficient to prevent planning permission. Their position was that it was not a real issue.

The appellant's expert was then cross examined by the NWLDC barrister who was very direct and to the point and went a long way to discrediting the witness's assumption that the highways issues in this case were not insurmountable. This led to the opposing barrister having to help out his highways' expert on a number of occasions.

Then followed a re-examination of the appellant's highways expert by his barrister. Again, it was very much barrister led and even at this late stage the appellant's barrister introduced new documents to the proceedings even though written submissions had to be in to the inspector prior the actual inquiry.

The next engagement was the Council's highways expert and he was questioned by the Council's barrister on his written submission. He stuck by all the figures supplied in his document and could not recommend this application for approval. He said the 'desirable stopping distances' had been applied for this particular stretch of road and that the 'minimum standard' could not be applied. He also said it was not appropriate to remove mature trees and too costly to alter the road layout to improve visibility as the appellants had suggested.

As readers can see from the above short precis of day one of the inquiry, it would take the whole of several issues of the Packington Post to give readers chapter and verse. So, I will cut to the chase and give you headlines so that when the Inspector gives his verdict on the application, which could take around three months, you can see how close his decision will be.

- 1) Does the Inspector go with the minimum or desirable stopping distances on the access site highway connection?
- 2.) Does the Inspector, take into account that the Local Authority has done very little to provide travellers' sites over the last decade?
- 3.) Does the Inspector give weight for approval from the personal circumstances given to the inquiry by a number of travellers who gave personal testimonies?
- 4.) Will the Inspector think that a traveller site in the middle of the countryside enhances or detracts the landscape of the National Forest?
- 5.) Will the Inspector judge that the application is a sustainable development or that there will be too much reliance on motor transportation to and from the site.

There were many other smaller issues not mentioned above.

Chris Miles, Chairman PPC

Guide Dog in Training



Hello, my name is Cracker, and I am new to the village. I currently live with the Ball family on Mill Street and am teaching them how to teach me to become a guide dog for the blind. I'll live there for a year before I go on and do my proper apprenticeship with the guide dog people. After another 12 months of training, I will become a qualified guide dog for the blind.

At the moment, I'm only a few weeks old, so I have to teach the humans about potty training, especially the young humans Jenson, 13 and Josh, 16; I have to make sure they don't tire me out too much, as I am only little. I also live with the grandparents Terry and Chris; Chris is knocking into shape well, but granddad Terry has still got a lot to learn; he's been throwing sticks and expecting me to chase after them; I don't, of course; poor old granddad doesn't realise I am not supposed to be chasing sticks particularly when I am working with blind people - but he means well.

I am off for my afternoon nap, so I will speak to you later.



Cracker, Guide Dog in Training
www.guidedogs.org.uk

Fascinating Fossil Find

Whilst out recently, litter picking the brook, village resident, Simon Tebbett, had a rather interesting find, discovering what he believes to be a Club Moss Bark fossil. With an interest in geology and palaeontology, Simon tells the Packington Post, "At the bottom of the brook, amongst bits of pottery and glass, I noticed something with a dappled pattern, around 20cm by 15cm so took a closer look.



"In my amateur opinion, I believe the fossil to be a Club Moss Bark. Our village is, at least in part, on the Carboniferous coal measures; the Carboniferous period persisted between 259 to 299 million years ago (although some experts differ in opinion as to the exact dates - so let's say give or take 10 million years). At that time Packington would have been positioned on or near a large, low-lying, tropical area, probably not too far from the coast, and interspersed with marshes, swamps and forests. A form of primitive tree-like plant, Club Mosses thrived in wet and humid conditions, with some variants able to grow as high as 30 metres. However, although looking 'tree-like', Club Mosses were not related to modern trees; and despite the name, neither were they directly related to moss. The plants shared their environment with some sizeable animals, as the largest of the primitive reptiles of the Carboniferous period grew up to 30 feet long; however, it is very unlikely that we will find any of those in Packington since they did not seemingly live in this area."

Packington Film Club

Friday 14th April, we will be showing 'Mrs Harris Goes To Paris' which tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own.



Tickets, as usual, are £4 for adults and £2 for children. Hall opens 7:00pm **with the film starting at 7:30pm**. Refreshments will be available prior to the film. We look forward to seeing you all.

Packington Film Club Committee

Quote from one of the volunteer cooks at the Big Breakfast

“The atmosphere in the kitchen was like ‘Gordon Ramsey meets Nigella Lawson’ please invite us back again next year”

Packington Village History Group

The Group is continuing to work on its archive, aiming to make information about Packington’s history more readily available. We are also assisting the Parochial Church Council in providing a display board at Holy Rood Church to tell visitors about the church’s history – it being at least in part the oldest building in Packington.

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 28th March in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room** when, amongst others things, we will be hearing about the wills of prominent Packingtonians around the year 1700. Come and join us!

A date for your diary: we intend to hold a History Walk along Packington High Street on the evening of **Tuesday 27th June**. More about this in the May issue of the Packington Post.

Contact Robin Boucher: 01530 411638
randbboucher@googlemail.com



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PHS Spring Fair

The second annual Packington Horticultural Society (PHS) Spring Fair will be held at **Packington Memorial Hall on Sunday 2nd April.**



Browse a range of local craft, gift and food stalls and grab yourself a bargain whilst supporting local businesses.

Doors open at **10:00am until 1:00pm** and tea and coffee will be available.

Get yourself a raffle ticket and you could be in with a chance of winning a fabulous prize from one of the talented stall holders. All proceeds from the raffle will go into the PHS charity pot, that is distributed to local community groups.

PHS will have a stall and will be offering advice and guidance for those wishing to enter items into the Annual Village Show, which is held in September.

Also, if you have any surplus plants, seeds or cuttings then please feel free to bring them along for the PHS plant stall!

Everyone is welcome and the team look forward to seeing lots of new as well as familiar faces!

For further information about this and other events held by PHS visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/packingtonshow](https://www.facebook.com/packingtonshow) or search 'Packington Village Show'

Community Choir

Fancy singing but have never got round to it? Give it a go! A new choir group is starting with a light hearted repertoire, aiming to enjoy singing together.



Join us for our first event on **Saturday 1st April from 10:00am until 12noon** at **Holy Rood Church, Packington.**

The group is completely FREE and no experience necessary. Just come along and have fun; sing some new songs, meet new people, and have a chat over tea and biscuits!

We will then be holding weekly sessions starting on **Thursday 20th April from 7:00pm until 9:00pm** in the Church.

Booking is essential – contact Aimee to book your place or register your interest in the weekly sessions.

Aimee Harrison: 07967 316645
aimeemusic@live.co.uk

Chester Comes Second in Class at Crufts



Chester, a Border Collie owned by Nita Withers, was a star on the day to pick up the blue rosette at Crufts. Nita runs stables on Babelake Street, which is also home to the Pheonix Children's Foundation. Well done Nita and Chester!

Board Game Afternoon



Do you like to play board games?

Come and join our friendly group who meet to play board games on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. If you have a favourite game, please bring it with you – or you can learn a new one. No booking is necessary, just come along.



We meet between **2:00pm and 4:00pm** in the meeting room at **Packington Memorial Hall**. The cost is £2 and tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

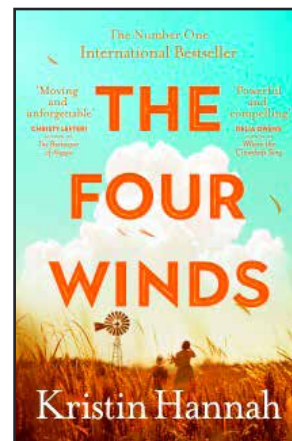
The next meetings are on **Thursday 23rd March, 13th April and 27th April**.

Any questions please ring:
Helen Edgington: 07766 086580

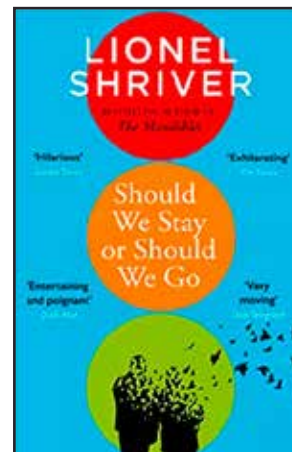
Packington Book Club

Join our friendly group to read and discuss a wide variety of books (and chat too). We don't take things seriously – the only qualification is that you enjoy reading.

For **Wednesday 26th April** the book we're reading is 'The Four Winds' by Kristin Hannah - a story of love, family, unbreakable bonds, bravery and hope.



For **Wednesday May 24th** the book is 'Should We Stay Or Should We Go' by Lionel Shriver. A suicide pact at 80 – but do they both feel the same when the time arrives? A witty and funny exploration of the subject.



We meet between **7:30pm – 9:00pm** on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the meeting room at **Packington Memorial Hall**. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

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

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Thinking of becoming a Parish Councillor?

‘...go for it!’ says one of our current Parish Councillors.

Packington Parish Council is calling on residents, passionate about their community, to stand in the local elections in May 2023.



There are six councillor positions and there is currently one vacancy on the council. However, at election time all positions are essentially vacant and therefore anyone can put themselves forward for one of the six positions.

What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups, and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community's needs.

The Parish Council is responsible for litter and dog waste bins, some street furniture such as benches and noticeboards. Packington Parish Council serves as sole trustee to two charities, one of which manages the recreation ground and play area.

It represents the parish with the County and District Councils, pushing for improvements in service such as traffic calming, verge mowing and signage.

The council also supports village events, such as helping to organise and fund the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations. It maintains the Round House and the village defibrillator, provides the planters for the village entrances, helps fund the Packington Post, and supports the CCTV scheme.

The Packington Post asked one of our current Parish Councillors, Russell Powell, for an insight into his experience, specifically why he joined the council? *"I wanted to contribute to ensuring the village is a safe place to live and to enhance the village spirit through events and celebrations."*

When asked what he would say to anyone thinking of becoming a councillor he said, *"If you have the time, energy and enthusiasm... go for it!"*

How much time does it take?

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies. However most smaller councils need much less time than this.

How the election process works

The next elections will take place on **Thursday 4th May 2023.**

However the **deadline to submit your nomination form is Tuesday 4th April** to qualify for the election. Election packs will be available from the Elections Team at NWLDC. Voting will take place in the usual way and the results will be publicised after the count.

If successful, you will attend the next Parish Council meeting, sign your Acceptance of Office form, and sit as a councillor for the first time at that meeting. The Clerk will ensure that you are provided with as much information as possible to help you settle into the role and training is also available.

How can I get involved?

Contact Packington Parish Council:

- clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk
- **07936 359959**
- **Or visit www.nalc.gov.uk/elections**

Packington's Coronation Celebrations



Saturday 6th May - Picnic in the Park

Packington Recreation Ground. **Set-up your Gazebos etc from 1:00pm and activities begin at 3:00pm.**

3:00pm - 4:00pm Games for all ages.

4:00pm - Tug-o-war. Various age categories.

4:30pm - Music by DJ Callum and picnic time.

Bring your own food; or pre-order any food from the Bull and Lion by ringing **Tracey on 07446 820025.**

Or buy in, using delivery address Packington Recreation Ground, Measham Rd, LE65 1WP.

5:00pm – Music, DJ and Dancing or quick Rounders (15 min games, teams of up to nine players).

6:00pm - Music by DJ Callum - music requests taken.

The toilets have been requested to be open at the Church and a trained first aider will be in attendance until 6:30pm.

Wet weather contingency is that we all meet in the Memorial Hall at 3:00pm with our picnics.

Sunday 7th May - Holy Rood Church

11:00am Songs of Praise, followed by tea/coffee and lunch. More details on page 12.

Monday 8th May - The King's Volunteers' Day



Village Spring Clean and Litter Pick - meet at **Memorial Hall at 10:00am.**

Back at 11:45am to 12:30pm for tea and coffee or bottled beer (cash sale only) and bacon butties.

Please wear strong boots/shoes. Pickers, bags and hi-vis jackets, sprays and cloths will be available but please bring own if you have them. Also please wear your own gloves. If you have a spray bottle with a mild detergent in, please bring that along with a cloth to clean Packington's Street signage.

Prior to the celebrations the Coronation working group hopes to arrange a street display of crowns produced by Packington children. Crown templates will be given out at Packington School and can also be obtained from Daybreak Services. Every entry will be laminated and displayed on lamp posts and notice boards in the village. There will be prizes for the best in age group and hopefully something for all who entered.

The team would also like to see Packington looking festive and royal. We are therefore putting red, white and blue bunting up at several locations and would ask all residents to do the same.

For further information contact Chris on behalf of the Coronation working group.

Chris Miles: 01530 414378
christopher.miles@sky.com

Packington Traffic Calming Update

The committee held a further meeting this month and we now have the independent traffic survey report following the installation of Automatic Traffic Counters in December. We are currently awaiting the report from Leicestershire County Council following their traffic survey when we will then be able to analyse the data.



Information which has recently been received from Leicestershire County Council confirms that there have been eight accidents in the village in the last five years which involved injury and were reported to the Police! Of these accidents, three were categorised by the Police as "serious".

Measham and Atherstone Parish Councils have kindly been in touch to provide information on how they have progressed with traffic calming in their villages. This has been interesting to read and has been helpful in considering our next steps – thank you to those Parish Councils.

We are currently considering our position regarding a potential application to the Solar Farm Grant – further updates to come.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your support – it is much appreciated!

Nicola Beanland: 07974 944516

Classic Car Meet

The 2023 season of the Packington Classic & Exotic Car Meet is about to commence at The Bull & Lion, Packington. The meet takes place on the **first Monday of the month from April to September inclusive**. Our first meeting will take place on **Monday 3rd April and cars assemble between 5:30pm and 8:30pm**.



Depending on the weather we can expect around 40 local cars to attend. The meet is open for anyone to bring along their cherished car to discuss its finer points with other enthusiasts or to simply show it off to the crowd. Many keen car fans flock to this event to look at these beautiful and interesting vehicles. They always invoke nostalgia for a bygone era.



Tracey and Drew at The Bull & Lion look after us very well and they always provide a warm welcome with good food and drinks available.

For more information, please follow our Facebook page by searching - **Packington Classic & Exotic Car Meet**

Packington Church Services for March and April all start at **10:00am** unless otherwise stated:

19th March – Mothering Sunday Service

26th March – Holy Communion

2nd April – Palm Sunday Service (with Christian Aid)

7th April – Good Friday Way of the Cross Service at **7:30pm**

9th April – Easter Sunday Holy Communion

23rd April – Morning Prayer

7th May – Songs of Praise service at **11:00am**

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in Church

A huge thank you to everyone who came to this event. What an amazing day! There was a lot of artistic glueing and sticking. Junk modelling was very popular with some very creative models being made.

Our apologies for the technical hitches which resulted in a very slow start to serving and that resulted in some families not having time to wait for their pancakes. Hopefully our next attempt will be spot on!

We are planning to repeat this lunch and crafts event during the Easter break (date to be arranged) so do look out for our posters.

Anne & Lesley



Our Junior Reporter, Jessica Wathes gives her take on Pancake Day at the Church:

As the church clock struck 12, people of all ages walked in, found a table and waited for their orders to be taken. Meanwhile Anne and her friends (Lesley, Jane, Izzy and Meg) were flipping pancakes and cooking crumpets and toast. Already made cakes sat on the table ready to be eaten.

Children and adults could play games, do crafts or EAT! It all went well but when the clock struck two everyone sadly walked out thinking about what a wonderful time they had!

Coffee Morning

Every 4th Wednesday of the month in Packington Church



26th April

24th May

10am to 12noon

Join us for Tea/Coffee and homemade cake

Also books and jigsaws to borrow or swap

Coronation Songs of Praise



As part of our celebrations for the King's Coronation, Holy Rood Church will be holding a special Songs of Praise Service on **Sunday 7th May 2023 at 11:00am** (a change from our usual service time of 10:00am). Come along and help us to raise the rafters with joyful song!

If any of you have a favourite hymn which you would like us to sing on that occasion, then either please sign the list at the back of church or get in touch with me by phone or email. Thank you!

Details not yet finalised, but after the Service we shall be offering tea and coffee and then from **12:30pm** - FOOD! So watch out for further information nearer the time, which we shall publicise using posters and a variety of village communication channels.

Lesley Birtwistle: 01530 413309
lbwistle@googlemail.com

Christian Aid Week Collections



Christian Aid week runs from the **14th – 20th May 2023** and we will be running collections during this time.

This year we will again be using 'delivery only' envelopes which does not involve calling back to collect donations.

It is requested that those wishing to give should return them to the local address as stated on the envelope.

If you are willing to help with the delivery of envelopes or be a return point in Packington, please contact me.

Doreen Gasson: 01530 412012
gasson123@btinternet.com

Christian Aid Week Service

HOLY ROOD CHURCH
 Packington

Palm Sunday 2nd April
 Service of Morning Prayer
At 10:00am

Followed by tea/coffee & biscuits

Guest Speaker:
Sue Richardson,
 who will talk about the work of the charity
 Christian Aid.

A warm welcome to all



Twycross Zoo

At the beginning of February our Year 1 & 2 pupils visited Twycross Zoo for their first ever school trip due to all the previous COVID restrictions! They helped Miss Moore with working out the costs and used the school laptops to write letters to their parents/carers telling them about the trip. On the day they all had a great time exploring the zoo and learning about different habitats across the world. Back at school they spent time making information booklets and posters about the different animals they had seen.

Through the Wardrobe

Our Key Stage 2 children were very lucky to be invited to visit the 'Through the Wardrobe' Experience hosted by Measham Baptist Church. Based on C.S.Lewis' The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe, it truly was a magical experience for all. We would like to thank all the volunteers involved for creating such a fun and memorable event.



Beaumanor

Our Year 3 & 4 children recently visited Beaumanor Hall and spent two days and one night at the centre taking part in a wide range of activities including bridge building, archery and hide and seek in the cellars! All of the children had a fantastic time and Miss Carter was super proud of their behaviour and how they tackled the different activities and challenges.



World Book Day

We all had a fun time celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 2nd March. There were lots of fantastic costumes and our 'Book in a Box' competition included some very creative entries. Well done to everyone for their hard work in creating them, our head boy and girl had a very difficult job when judging the winners.



Coming up:

- We will be holding our traditional Easter Service in Holy Rood Church on Friday 31st March.

The Packington school children (years 3-6) continue to improve and enjoy every minute of the after-school coaching sessions with Melbourne based coach Nigel Webster. These sessions are every **Wednesday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm** and will continue until the May spring holiday. Mr Emery the PE coordinator from Packington school asked the pupils attending Table Tennis currently for their feedback and was given the quotes below:



Looks like they are all enjoying it! We have 15 children signed up from the February half term until the May spring holiday. A big thank you to Goff Lewis who helps with the school coaching most weeks.

Following on from the school coaching, general Junior coaching continues **every Wednesday between 7:00pm and 8:00pm**. The sessions are run by our coach Nigel Webster at a cost of £2 per session with numbers continuing to grow for ages 7 - 16.

The Packington Table Tennis club night is each **Wednesday at 8:00pm until 9:30pm**. £2.50 per adult and £1.50 for juniors (juniors need to be accompanied by an adult/guardian). Numbers on each Wednesday club night currently vary between 12 and 20 with all levels, genders and age levels being represented. Beginners are made very welcome. It was very encouraging to see more local Packington people attending following a recent publication in the Packington Post.

The Packington Patriots table tennis team, expertly led by captain Goff Lewis who rotated his team more than Claudio Ranieri - the 'tinker man' of table tennis management! The inexperienced team are showing significant improvement and growing as a team and are currently top in Division 4 of the Loughborough league with James Mattley having 5 POTM (Player of the Match) awards and brother Brendon having 3 POTM awards. James having a 72% win record with Ben Pearce on 70% and Brendon on 63%. The team have been well supported by Anthony Wickwar, Goff Lewis and Graham Saunt. Well played to all the team against many experienced players within the Loughborough league.

Meanwhile the Packington Pirates are 5th in Division 3 with George Taylor and Shane McCauley playing the majority of the matches. A recent recruit for the team Beata Cieslak should make a difference going forward as she gains experience within the league. Home league game nights for both teams (at Packington Memorial Hall) are on a **Thursday evening starting at 7:15pm**.

Also on **Thursday evenings from 7:15pm** some tables are assigned to general play or individual coaching with Level 3 coach Adam Petit who will be available for most Thursdays during April.

The Packington Table Tennis Club will have their AGM on **Wednesday March 29th at 6:30pm in the Memorial Hall meeting room**.

For any further information contact Graham. **Graham Saunt: 07764 471917**



A bright future for Hospice Hope

The future of our local charity, Hospice Hope, is looking bright as work starts to build them a new day centre to be known as **Bright Hope House**.

NWLDC has provided land in Swannington so it can create a bespoke facility and continue its work supporting people with life limiting conditions. Local house builder Bloor Homes will fund the building work at no cost to the charity.

Work started on site to build Bright Hope House on Monday 27th February, with the centre expected to open by the end of 2023.



(L-R) Roy Stobbs, Hospice Hope Trustee & Lead in the build of Bright Hope House, Paul Sanders, Head of Community Services at NWLDC, Cllr Andrew Woodman, Portfolio Holder for Community Services at NWLDC, Stewart Shepherd Chair of the Trustees of Hospice Hope, Jim Vickrage, Charity Manager at Hospice Hope and Allison Thomas, Chief Executive at NWLDC,

In 2019 Hospice Hope learned that they would have to move out of their current accommodation in Griffydham, so the trustees turned to the District Council for ideas.

In response, the council agreed to lease a plot of land in Swannington to the charity for a peppercorn rent.

Bloor Homes have now started building the bespoke 6,000 sq ft facility.



Artists' impression

Councillor Andrew Woodman, Portfolio Holder for Community Services at NWLDC said: "This is a very exciting time, as work to build Bright Hope House begins in Swannington. The facility will secure the future of a fantastic charity which supports so many local people. It has been our pleasure to work with Hospice Hope and Bloor Homes on this important project, and we look forward to seeing the building take shape over the coming months."

Stewart Shepherd, Chair of the Trustees of Hospice Hope says the charity is delighted with the news: "This wonderful partnership between the council, Bloor Homes and our charity must be unique. It enables Hospice Hope to develop and build on all that it has learned and achieved over many years. The need for our services continues to grow and develop and we are all looking forward to meeting that need when Bright Hope House opens. As the building progresses, we shall be looking to the community and local businesses to support this excellent initiative."

For further information on how to help and support Hospice Hope please contact Trustees of Hospice Hope

Kate and Peter Last: 01530 415129
www.hospicehope.org.uk

Do you have a story for the Packington Post? We are always interested to hear about news or events in the village.

Send your story to
editor@packington.info

The Circus is Coming to Town!

The Packington Primary School Parent School Association (PSA) is thrilled to announce that the Circus is coming to town!

National Festival Circus will be coming to Packington on bank holiday **Monday 1st May 2023**.

The "Traditional Family Fun" tour will have thrills, laughs and excitement. The international award-winning circus acts promise to thrill and amaze you along with the fabulously funny clowns. Weather permitting, we will also have the special guest of a Flypast from an RAF Hurricane.

Tickets are now on sale on www.eventbrite.co.uk simply search 'Circus coming to Packington'. Tickets are limited so don't miss out. This is a great way to have a fun bank holiday and also support your local school.

Please note that there will be no overnight stay with the circus, no animals or heavy vehicles will be used. Parking will be limited so please walk or car share to the event if you can.

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