



## Supporting Packington's Summer Events

### Celebrating 80 Years of Packington Village Show

Local residents and those from neighbouring villages made up what was a fantastic turnout to celebrate the milestone Village Show earlier this month.



[Read more on page 2](#)

### Packington Duck Race Returns!

After two years of no duck racing, due to Covid and low water levels, this year finally saw hundreds of yellow ducks making their way down the Gilwiskaw.



Race Stewards gave the go ahead and the races got underway, with the ever-popular customised duck race receiving a whopping 53 entries!

[Read more on page 3](#)

### Holy Rood Church Open Day

Saturday 9th September saw the hottest day of the year so far, but that didn't deter people from paying a visit to the Heritage Open Day at Holy Rood Church.

The church was alive with eager faces, all keen to explore the extensive history within the fabric of the building and the churchyard beyond, and the people who over the years, have played a part in making it what it is today.

[Read more on page 10](#)



## Celebrating 80 Years of Packington Village Show

*Continued from page 1...*

This bumper show boasted a beautiful display of flowers and vibrant vegetables – and even some weirdly wonky ones. Perfectly baked sausage rolls, chocolate cakes and scrumptious scones were all on offer, along with pickles, jams and items of craftwork from adults and juniors alike.



After the entries had been judged, visitors were welcomed back to see the excellent exhibits. They enjoyed pizzas from Biddulph's Pizzeria and the warm weather certainly helped to keep the bar staff busy. Some lucky visitors scooped an array of raffle prizes, including hampers, Bluestone Fitness gym memberships, Daybreak and Bull & Lion vouchers to name a few.

As is tradition, the event culminated in the fun and excitement of the auctioning off of all the exhibits, which also included some extra items including a golf day at Willesley Golf Club and a signed Leicester City shirt.



*Committee member Brian Parry, grandson of 1943 founder Alf Parry, with auctioneer Chris Miles*

In honour of our celebration year the total amount of money awarded was **£1,400**, and representatives from each local group or organisation were invited to receive their donations in person.

The cash awards were given to 1st Packington Rainbows, 1st Packington Brownies, Packington Film Club, Packington Lunch Club, Holy Rood Church Lunch Events run by Ann Wathes, Packington Table Tennis Club, Rainbows Hospice, Hospice Hope and Air Ambulance.

Mike Powell, Chairman of Packington Horticultural Society (PHS) said: 'I would like to thank everybody who exhibited, attended, viewed, bought raffle tickets and purchased one or more of the ninety plus exhibits in the amazing and ever popular auction of vegetables, cookery and craft that made the 80th anniversary Packington Village Show such a success. As a result of your generosity and interest we were able to make significant awards to six village organisations in addition to contributing to the continued financial stability of Rainbows children's hospice, the Air Ambulance and Hospice Hope. Representatives of our sponsors were also there to see the awards made.

"We can't do the show or any of the other events we organise without you so we look forward to seeing you again soon," Mike added.

The show has come a long way from its humble origins in war torn England to its current premier position in Packington's calendar of community events.

To keep up to date with news about all PHS events follow us on **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/packingtonshow](http://www.facebook.com/packingtonshow)

## Wreath Making Workshops

The PHS will again be running a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at the **Memorial Hall**. The price will be £45 per person which includes the demonstration and all materials.

There are limited spaces available – to book your place please contact Laura on:

[laurajbryant@aol.com](mailto:laurajbryant@aol.com) or **07932 836675**

## Packington Duck Race Returns!

*Continued from page 1...*

Proceedings got underway at 6.00pm on August Bank Holiday Monday. The weather was good with a light wind and the flow speed of the Gilwiskaw was deemed just permissible.

The ducks had a bit of a problem in getting away from the main bunch and it was not until the shallow faster flow of the rapids section brought decisive movement. The more agile of the ducks fought their way to the front and all races ended with about three or four ducks being separated by a photo finish.



Winning duck numbers were as follows:

**Race 1** - 1<sup>st</sup> 33, 2<sup>nd</sup> 26, 3<sup>rd</sup> 15

**Race 2** - 1<sup>st</sup> 217, 2<sup>nd</sup> 211, 3<sup>rd</sup> 226

**Race 3** - 1<sup>st</sup> 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> 14

The last race was the increasingly popular customised duck race with 53 participants! Let's see if we can beat the previous record entry of 56 next time. The prize winners came from the same Duck Stable this year and were; 1<sup>st</sup> Pirate Duck. 2<sup>nd</sup> Flying Duck. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop Duck.

Attendance was a little down this year. Who in their right mind would follow a summer Bank Holiday with the first day of the school year?!

Organisers would like to say well done to all who took part and supported the event, and a big thank you to all the Duck Stewards - Dean, Annie, Mel, Simon, Zac, Claire, Steve, Sarah and Graham.

Finally, it's not all about the money but we did make a profit on the event and the **£235** made will go towards the maintenance and improvements to the Memorial Hall.

**Chris Miles, Memorial Hall Chairman**  
**01530 414378**

## Junior Reporter, Jessica Wathes, gives us her take on this year's event:

As everyone walked into Mill Street, tickets for race one had started being handed out. When the people had got their tickets, they could smell the delicious food cooking as they wandered up Mill Street to watch race one. At the starting point, the rubber ducks were put into the water. **READY SET GO!!!**

The ducks were released and over time they moved down the river. They pushed over each other and some just trailed behind. As soon as the ducks reached the end some people were cheering and some were sad. It then came to the home-made duck race and I loved all of the ducks. When all of the races were finished everyone wandered home really happy or hoping to win next year.

## Packington Village History Group

Group members were pleased to contribute to the Heritage Open Day at Holy Rood Church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Particular thanks go to Sue Brown who put together a display showing lots of information about the church's history – the display generated a lot of interest on the day. Robin Boucher gave a talk looking round the inside of the church, highlighting links with the lives of Packingtonians from times past. It was good to see that the Open Day was well supported, despite being just about the hottest day of the year.

The Group's first autumn meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm** in the **Memorial Hall meeting room**. We will take a look at Thomas Oakey, a local farmer who wrote about Holy Rood Church in and shortly after 1900, giving us a vivid picture of church life back then. You will be welcome to join us!

Contact **Robin Boucher, 01530 411638**  
Email: [randbboucher@googlemail.com](mailto:randbboucher@googlemail.com)

## Packington Traffic Calming Group

**Good news!** We have been informed by the Road Safety Officer, PC Tom Hayward, that Normanton Road / Coleorton Lane are being added to the list of community concern sites for the mobile camera van. This will be in place for 18 months and is to start with immediate effect, so keep your eyes open! Hopefully, their presence will be a step closer to the reduction of speeding traffic through the village.

Having exchanged detailed correspondence over the past year with various departments at Leicestershire County Council, we are still being met with comments such as:

- The County Council is not obligated to make changes to historic road layouts, this location (Measham Road).
- This site is not a safety concern site and as such does not meet our current criteria for safety improvements.
- The County Council is not responsible for how road users use the highways. They should follow guidance contained within the Highway Code.
- We can only reiterate the County Council has no legal powers to take enforcement action against drivers who exceed the speed limit.
- As such it does not meet our current criteria to justify funding further soft traffic calming measures.

It is therefore our intention to research all avenues of funding/grants, with a view to funding road safety improvements as a village - something which we are hoping Packington Parish Council may be able to assist with.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact:

PTCG Chair – **Jonathan Alexander**  
[jonathan.alexander.uk@outlook.com](mailto:jonathan.alexander.uk@outlook.com)

or

PTCG Secretary – **Nicola Beanland**  
[nicolabeanland@btinternet.com](mailto:nicolabeanland@btinternet.com)

## Young Entrepreneurs

The Grange has recently produced two young business individuals.

Eliza Saye, aged just 11 years, had the idea back in June to start washing cars. Assisted by her Dad, (Eliza cannot yet reach the roof) she turns up with all the gear ready to start cleaning. Eliza put together a business plan and purchased a bucket and all the equipment she needed to get started.

# ELIZA'S SOAPY SCRUB!

I will have all the stuff that I need.

PRICES FROM £5.00

I will come to you and all you will need is a hose and access to a water source

Text: 07882927187 to arrange your wash

Packington

Seeing the opportunity to earn some pocket money, 10-year-old Charlie Mallon offers to cut your lawn along with other garden jobs such as weeding, blowing and raking. Like Eliza, Charlie designed a flyer which has been delivered to all the houses on The Grange.

Charlie the 'mower boy'

£5 for A CUT

Just Call 07359 549863



LawnCare

GARDEN SERVICE

We've had an excellent start to the school year and we are really pleased with the way all of the pupils have settled in to their new classes. It has been wonderful to welcome our new pupils and their families.



*Our new starters*

### Meet the Teacher

Now that the children have had a couple of weeks to settle in, we have been holding 'Meet the Teacher' drop-in sessions after school for all parents/carers to visit their child/ren's classroom and chat with staff. Thank you to all who popped in to say "hello" and ask any questions arising from the early days in school.

### Packington Cross Country

We are in the process of arranging the Unity Schools Cross Country event at Packington and the proposed date is the morning of **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November**. We would like to use this opportunity to give villagers prior notification of our plans. Due to COVID etc. it has been a long time since we have been able to run this event and unfortunately we had to cancel last year due to the weather. Should all be well and we are able to go ahead, I would like to thank you for your patience as we know all the extra visitors to the village will make it a busy Saturday morning. We really appreciate your support in making the morning a great success.

### Accelerated Reader

This academic year we have invested in a new reading programme in school called Accelerated Reader to help promote a love of reading within our children. The programme is aimed at pupils in Years 3 to 6, with some Year 2 pupils progressing onto it later in the year. Accelerated Reader helps us to monitor children's independent reading

with children picking a book at their own level and reading it at their own pace. Once finished, they take a short quiz to show their understanding of what they have read and gain points which will be celebrated in school. As part of this programme we have purchased even more books for our library!



*New books in our library*

### Willersley Castle

The majority of our Year 5 & 6 children are currently preparing for their three-day residential at Willersley Castle. We will be attending along with pupils from Worthington and Newbold Coleorton so it is a great opportunity to make new friends and experience new activities. This will be the first time visiting Willersley Castle and we hope they all have a fantastic time!

### New 2024 Reception Pupils

We have some tours arranged for parents/carers of prospective pupils for our September 2024 intake. These will take place on various Tuesday mornings throughout the Autumn Term. Please call the school if you would like to book a place on **01530 412425**. We can arrange an alternative date/time if needed.

### Coming Up

Harvest Festival – we will be holding our Harvest Festival in **Holy Rood Church** on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** at **9:15am**. All parents/carers are welcome to join us. This year, we are also planning a Food Bank collection as part of our Harvest celebrations.

[office@packingtons.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@packingtons.leics.sch.uk)

**There can't be many people who live in the village who haven't heard the name Chris Miles, but how much do we know about the person who dedicates so much of his time to the village? After Chris recently celebrated a milestone birthday, the Post caught up with him to find out about his life and involvement in the village.**

**By Sharron Miller**



Chris was born in 1943 in Hollesley Bay, Suffolk where his father worked for HM Prison Service. During his childhood relocating was a regular occurrence with Nottingham, the North Sea Camp Lincolnshire, Feltham and Foston in Derbyshire all being home. Another move was on the cards but, as his father was not in favour of the death penalty, he turned down a position at Norwich prison. They remained at Foston where Chris would finish his secondary education before studying PE and music at Loughborough University, going on to undertake a teacher training course. Every Thursday Chris would go to Granville School in Woodville as part of his training practice, and it was there that his heart would stay as, in his final year of training, the school offered him a full-time position. This was the start of his 40-year long career, with the last 20 spent as the department head of PE and music.

At this time, Chris played football for Netherseal where he lived, representing

the Burton and District Schools. He also organised and ran numerous out of school clubs across the whole week in music, athletics, cross country, cricket, gymnastics and coaching the Burton District under 15's football, with two of his players achieving division one status!

In 1968, Chris moved to Babelake Street in Packington. A short while later he was joined by Pauline after their marriage, and they stayed there for 14 years before relocating a few doors down the street to their current home with their children, Anthony and Rachael.

In the 1980s, Chris began to get involved with village life and word was that the Memorial Hall needed to form a committee. Originally a member of the public trustees, Chris was soon nominated for Chairman. With no one else willing he agreed to take on the role, a position he still holds today, alongside Chairman of our Parish Council. During this time, Chris has been instrumental in village projects such as the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall and acquiring the park play equipment. He was keen to point out that he worked alongside some wonderfully committed people during these projects, just as he continues to do so with events such as bonfire night and the duck race. I should also mention his contribution to past village events such as the carnivals and Jubilee celebrations, his stint for Packington cricket club and Chairman of Ravenstone youth football club.

It will come as no surprise that in what free time he has, Chris not only plays the keyboard for Measham Baptist Church but also runs a singing group called Testify, writing music for anyone who wants to share their words. Also an avid gardener, Chris is currently digging up more of his lawn so as he can increase the fresh food he already grows, something which is important to him as a lifelong vegetarian.

Asked if he could ever see himself stepping down, his philosophy is, *'while you can enjoy what you are doing and people appreciate what you are doing, change is unrealistic.'*

His one wish for the future of the village? *'That the village remains a village with comfortable separation of countryside in between.'*

## Bonfire Party



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Gates open 6.30pm, fireworks at 7.30pm**

Last year Packington Bonfire trialed a ticket only event and, owing to its huge success, it has been decided to continue that way. Entry will be via pre-purchased tickets only which will need to be presented on arrival - either on a phone or as a physical ticket. Tickets are available to purchase online from **Eventbrite.co.uk** by searching **Packington Fireworks** or from **Daybreak Services** (limited number available).

**Adult £6 - Child £4 - Family of Four £17**  
**Buy tickets on the link below:**



As always, the only entry to the event will be by foot via the top entrance to the play-area on Vicarage Lane. Limited parking will be available at the Recreation Ground carpark, so we encourage people to walk where possible.

### Building the Bonfire

Once again there is a need to build a safe bonfire so if anyone has any easily combustible wood such as old fence panels, pallets or old sheds (bitumen felt to be removed and disposed of at home) they can be brought to the bonfire site from **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**. Before bringing material please check that it is suitable for burning by contacting **Chris Miles on 01530 414378 or 07856 179485**. In previous years the bonfires have been terrific because they have been built from wood which is free from green material and toxic waste, meaning smoke was almost completely eliminated.

The event will be run in a similar way to previous years, with the bonfire being lit as

near to 7.00pm as possible. There will be two sessions of firework displays with an interval. During the interval there will be a free of charge sparkler session for youngsters accompanied by an adult. Hot dogs, burgers and a variety of hot and cold drinks will be available to purchase on the evening.

Please **Do Not** bring any of your own fireworks to this event, this includes sparklers. It is a condition of the insurance that only authorised fireworks are displayed in a safe and secure environment. Last year saw over £1,250 of fireworks on display to be enjoyed! With a hefty £400 insurance premium to stage this bonfire, we really do need to see as many people as possible on the rec to support this event, no matter what the weather! All monies raised go towards the ongoing maintenance and repair of the play area, with the zip wire now needing attention since its installation six years ago.

### Event Volunteers

For the event to run successfully, volunteers are always required to help set up and pack away and to generally help on the night. Anyone who can help in any way, even if it's just for a short time, please contact **Chris Miles on 01530 414378 or 07856 179485**.

DG

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## Pub News

It's been a busy few weeks for the new tenants of the Bull and Lion that have seen them play host to pie night, curry nights, the Pennyroyal Dancers, BBQs, the Travelling Greek Taverner and the final classic car meet of the year. Not to mention the temporary name change to the Bull and Lionesses in honour of the Women's World Cup Final event and the 6.00am start to welcome the Veterans March group for breakfast, for which they received an official certificate in appreciation of their support.



August Bank Holiday weekend saw the pub's first Sausage and Cider festival, during which a sausage eating competition was held. Ten participants were seated along a trestle style table and given a plate of eight sausages; little did they know that one was bursting with chilli! The rules were simple, whoever could eat all eight in the fastest time would be declared the winner. The Golden Sausage trophy went to village newcomer, Joey Mitchell, who made light work of the contents of his plate in comparison to the other participants!

Over the course of the weekend various sausages from local suppliers and craft ciders were on offer, along with a free bouncy castle to keep the little ones entertained and a visit from the Phoenix Children's Foundation alpacas.

In total, **£400** was raised from the event for the Packington-based charity Phoenix Children's Foundation.

**Terry & Sammy, 01530 415257**  
**Email: packingtonpubco@gmail.com**

## Solar Panels for the Memorial Hall?

Dear Editor,

When I read the article in the last issue of the Packington Post, about the Solar Benefit Fund, I felt the need to put forward an idea.

"Why not invest some of this £38,611 in solar panels for the Memorial Hall?"



*Solar panels fitted to Berrow Village Hall in Somerset*

This will benefit the community long term by helping to reduce the overheads of running the hall. In addition, it will contribute to the "Green Credentials" that I know were a priority for the committee when the hall was refurbished. Unfortunately, at the time there were not the funds available to carry out this sustainable element of the project.

I look forward to reporting on progress over the coming months.

**Mike Coke** (former member of the Memorial Hall Management Committee)

## Flu Clinics

It's soon going to be the flu season again. Measham Medical Unit will be running two drop-in clinics for flu vaccinations, they will be open for patients over 65 years old or those with underlying health conditions. For the full list please see the medical centre website [meashamdoctors.co.uk](http://meashamdoctors.co.uk).

The clinic dates are:

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September - 1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October - 8.30am to 12.00pm**

**Measham Medical Unit**

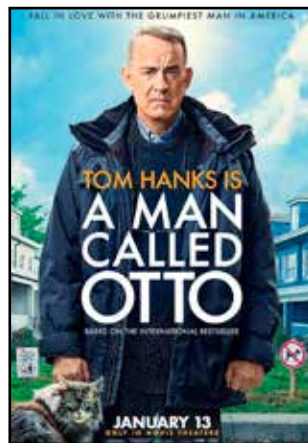
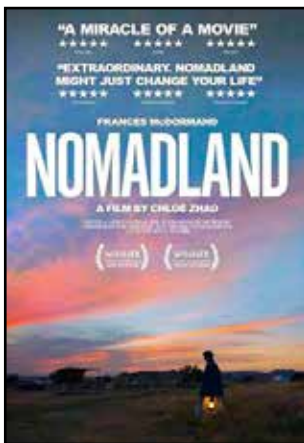


## Packington Film Club

Film Club returned after its summer break on Friday 8th September with another great film, Living starring Bill Nighy.

Our film for **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, will be the multi-Oscar winning **NOMADLAND**.

The film follows Fern who packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad in rural America.



Moving on to **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November**, we will be showing **A MAN CALLED OTTO** starring Tom Hanks. This is based on the comical and moving bestselling book by Fredric Backman.

Otto Anderson is a grump who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife. Otto is ready to end it all, but his plans are interrupted when a lively young family moves in next door, and he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol. She challenges him to see life differently, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world around.

Tickets, for all films are, £5 for adults, inclusive of refreshments, which are available prior to the start of the film.

We look forward to seeing you all.

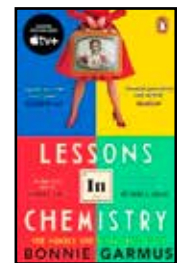
**Packington Film Club Committee**

## 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.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September** our book is *The Skeleton Key* by Erin Kelly. 'A completely addictive story of two families destroyed by success.'

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** our book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. 'A woman in the 1960s with an opinion...'



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

If you would like further information, please contact:

**Helen Edgington**  
**01530 412808** or **07766 086580**  
**helenmedgington@gmail.com**

## Board Game Afternoon is Back!

Do you like to play board games? Come and join our friendly group who meet to play 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 from **2:00pm – 4:00pm** in the **meeting room at Packington Memorial Hall**. The cost is £2 and tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

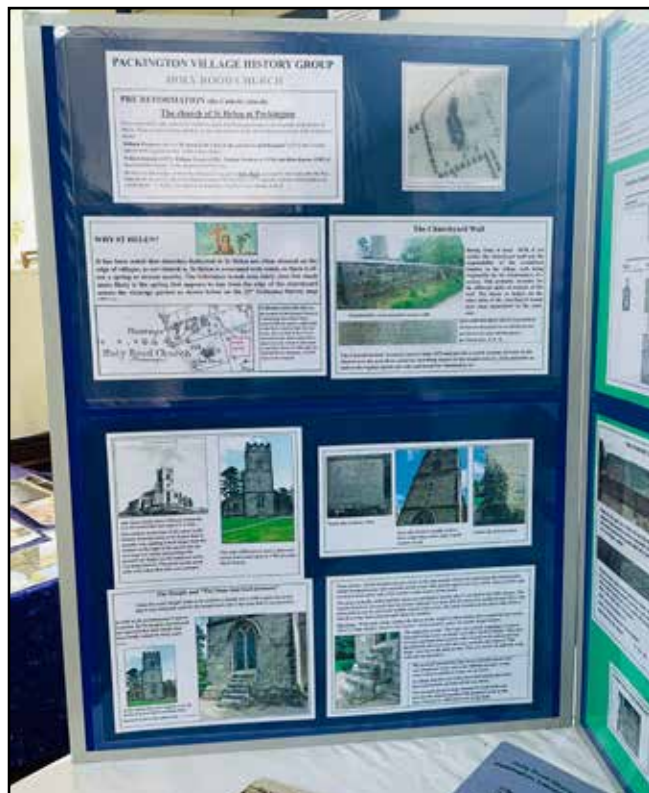
The next meetings are on **28<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October**.

**Helen Edgington**  
**01530 412808** or **07766 086580**  
**helenmedgington@gmail.com**

## Heritage Open Day

*Continued from page 1...*

On display were boards full of interesting information that various individuals had worked hard to put together, documenting snippets of the church's past, accompanied by photographs and sample records for all to peruse.



A little after 1.00pm, the quarter peal of bells began to fill the air with their familiar sounds. At 1.45pm, the Packington Community Choir entertained the crowd before Chair of the History Group, Robin Boucher, took the floor at 2.00pm. The pews were filled with those intent on learning more about the history of the church, for which Robin had prepared a fascinating seated tour of key areas of the church. From the discovery of two ancient alabaster slabs and several ornate pew ends under the floor where the organ once stood, to the ghostly ringing of the bells in 1790 - which thankfully turned out to have been triggered by lightning! Robin's talk was varied and captivating, leaving everyone hungry to know more. Luckily, Wendy Freer followed to show the short Pudding Bag Productions film, *Thomas Pestell, A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Vicar of Packington*, who, she informed us, had been forcibly evicted from Holy Rood Church by Cromwell's soldiers during the Civil War.

Alongside the abundance of history, there were sweet treats galore to tempt even the strongest of wills, all homemade by the hardworking team who were kept busy serving hot and cold drinks to help keep everyone hydrated.



Outside, as the sun shone down over the church and those enjoying some alfresco refreshment, you could be forgiven for finding yourself wondering just how many others have gathered there and done the same across the centuries of rich and colourful history of Holy Rood Church.

### Sharron Miller

*May we just add to Sharron's lovely article about the Heritage Day a big 'Thank you' to all who supported the day in any way – those who helped with preparation, those who worked very hard on the day in a variety of different ways as well as the bellringers, Aimee and the singers, Robin, Wendy and all of you who came along and, we hope, enjoyed yourselves!*

### Anne Wathes & Lesley Birtwistle

### Crufts Qualifier

Congratulations to Miz Janey from Poochies of Packington, who recently qualified for Crufts 2024. Here she is with owner Bev Smith.



## Church Services

Church services for September and October all start at 10:00am unless otherwise stated:

### Holy Rood Church, Packington:

10<sup>th</sup> September – Morning Prayer  
24<sup>th</sup> September – Holy Communion

1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Praise at 10.30am followed by a bookable ploughman's lunch. Email [woodfieldteamoffice@gmail.com](mailto:woodfieldteamoffice@gmail.com) to book.

8<sup>th</sup> October – Morning Prayer  
22<sup>nd</sup> October – Holy Communion

4<sup>th</sup> November – Lights of Love Service at 3.00pm. Remembering those that we have lost. Further details will be issued in the Parish News and via Alerts nearer the time.

### Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath:

17<sup>th</sup> September – Holy Communion

15<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Praise  
29<sup>th</sup> October – Team Service with Holy Communion

## Toastie Thursday

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our holiday Toastie drop-ins. It was great to see you and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did! Junk modelling and masking tape proved to be very popular, as did making bug hotels, apple bird feeders and so much more.



The next one is on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** from **12.00noon – 2.00pm** at **Holy Rood Church, Packington**. See you there!

For more information contact:  
**Anne Wathes, 01530 414621**

## Packington & Normanton Church Ladies Group

**OPEN CHARITY EVENING**  
7.30pm, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October  
Holy Rood Church, Packington

The speaker will be:  
**Anna-Louise Pickering**

**Wonderful World: Travels with a Wildlife Artist**  
*President of the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation*



Find out why Anna-Louise says being the assistant to a wildlife artist is the best job in the world...

Tickets £8.00 (including drink/mince pie) available on the door or from:

**Doreen Gasson, 01530 412012 or 07891 858283**

**Email: [gasson123@btinternet.com](mailto:gasson123@btinternet.com)**

*Proceeds to the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation & Dementia UK*

**£1 Entry**  
to include coffee/tea

# COFFEE MORNING

**SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER**  
**10am - 12.30pm**  
**Holy Rood Church, Packington**

Money being raised in aid of:  
Motor neurone disease association

There will be a variety of craft stalls so come and start your Christmas shopping!

**RAFFLE!**

**mnda**  
motor neurone disease association

### Update from Cracker, Trainee Guide Dog

Hello everyone, I'm now seven months into my twelve-month guide dog puppy training. I am really enjoying myself meeting all the other dogs and the friendly villagers in Packington. As you can see, I am a lot bigger now, I can now reach up and lick the crumbs off the table. If I get caught, I get told off for that – spoilsports!



Grandad and the Guide Dog people took me on the bus the other day, that was fun. We also went into John Lewis to get me used to going into shops, the guide dog lady was very good and very patient with Grandad, who fell over the lead.

The mistress of the house, Victoria, has been teaching me recall and to stop me from jumping up at people but I think I still need a bit of work on that.

I had to laugh the other day; Grandad took me over to Plummer's Wood where I played in the long grass. I found some lovely fox poo to roll in so I decided to stay put.

Grandad was running all over the place, calling me, he thought I had been kidnapped, but I was having the time of my life - what's wrong with a bit of fox poo? Speak to you later.

**Cracker, Guide Dog in Training**  
[www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk)

### Post Contacts

Editor  
 Amy Powell - 07739 365205  
 editor@packington.info  
 Sharron Miller - 07902 466611

Treasurer  
 Chris Hammond - 415764

Editorial Team  
 Mike Coke - 560430  
 Adrian Mongredien - 564613  
 Martin Tidman - 412851  
 Helen Edgington - 07766 086580

Photography  
 Karn Turnbull - 07748 296315

Website  
 Robert Dilworth - 411673  
 robert@packington.info

Alerts  
 Stephen Plummer - 412963  
 alerts@packington.info

Welcome Pack  
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**Ashby Office**  
 30 South Street Ashby de la Zouch  
 Leicestershire LE65 1BT  
 Tel: 01530 414111  
 Fax: 01530 417022

**Coalville Office**  
 21-25 London Road Coalville  
 Leicestershire LE67 3JB  
 Tel: 01530 834466  
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