Packington Post
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Big Breakfast Success, Now The Hunt Is On!

Packington's Big Breakfast

Once again, I am delighted to say that we had a fantastic response to our annual charity Big Breakfast held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 2nd March.

As soon as the doors opened at 9:00am, the tables were filled up and continued to be full right up until 1:00pm.

The team in the kitchen were non-stop, cooking up an impressive record breaking 382 breakfasts!

The team spirit was simply amazing, with everyone taking part and doing their jobs with smiles to make the morning a huge success for everyone.

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Packington Easter Egg Hunt

The Great Packington Easter Egg Hunt is returning for another year. No matter your age, it's an 'eggs'cellent opportunity to take a stroll around our beautiful village whilst helping raise funds for new equipment for the village recreation ground. You never know, you might even win a prize!

Packington Parish Council

Crime

During the last two months the Police have reported that there had been three crimes. Theft from a car and a building site and a crime of harassment. No further detail was given. The Parish Council urges residents to be vigilant to deter crimes in the village.

Flooding

Again, this has been a real problem with two more notable flooding episodes of the Gilawiskaw and Babelake Street. The Parish Council's working party, FLOAT (Flood Action Team) has met again and is asking for a follow up meeting with LCC, Environment Agency, The Rivers Trust, NWLDC and Severn Trent.

We have not heard anything from the NWLDC Planning Authority as to our inquiries into their procedures and enforcement of flood mitigation on past, present and future building sites to the north of Packington.

Village CCTV

An update of the system was given by Councillor Powell who said the agreement between the supplier and the Parish Council had almost been finalised and the decision to either go ahead or reject the system would be made at the April council meeting. Councillors were hopeful that a successful outcome would occur.

Community Orchard

Anyone with an interest in fruit, pruning and orchards is asked to let Chairman Chris Miles know that they are interested in forming a Community Orchard Group. He says "yes, it is a voluntary thing but you will get paid in apples and plums."

Contact **Chris 07856 179485** to volunteer.

Traffic Calming

The council and the independent Traffic Calming group are still awaiting a report by LCC Highways Authority regarding the type of traffic calming measures and cost.

The Lack of Public Presence at Council Meetings

Discussion on this topic took place at the March meeting and most agreed that many of the items were mundane and not very interesting and that to a certain extent the non-attendance of the public was to be expected. However, it was resolved that items on the agenda which did appeal to the public should be brought forward and the **questions from members of the public** should be highlighted at the start of the meeting.

The PPC are your representatives and we do spend your money and manage a number of facilities which affect you and your families. So come on public, we would like you to put in an appearance on the **first Tuesday of the month** in the **meeting room of the Memorial Hall** starting promptly at **7:00pm**. We look forward to seeing more of you.

Chris Miles Chairman

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ProCon 2023

Packington Traffic Calming Group

Some of you will have noticed over the last few months a speed camera van parked in the village enforcing the speed limit into our village.

The Police have recognised that Packington has a speeding issue and some of the driver behaviour is well below the standard it should be. They have therefore added us to their *hot spots* and are now targeting drivers, increasing fines, drivers' awareness courses and points on your licence. It's just not worth speeding. Better to be late than never!!!

Towards the end of 2023 we had a meeting with Leicestershire County Council to discuss further traffic calming measures to reduce the speed through the village. Surveys were carried out in early 2024 and we are awaiting the reports from LCC. We have also been invited to join in the Community Speed Watch initiative this year which will be running in spring/summer. We will be monitoring the speed at different times of the day and relaying this back to LCC to help reinforce traffic calming measures.

As finally the lighter nights are arriving, we will see an increase in motorised traffic and public on foot or bikes. We will no doubt see the speeding problem increase with longer daylight hours. Please be careful when you're out and about enjoying the early spring mornings and evenings.

Recorded speeds through our surveys have shown double the speed limit on all major roads through the village. If you walk/run on the smaller lanes we seem to have some drivers using these lanes like it's a formula one straight! Please take care and enjoy our beautiful village.

PTCG Chair – Jonathan Alexander
jonathan.alexander.uk@outlook.com

PTCG Secretary – Nicola Beanland
nicolabeanland@btinternet.com

Table Tennis Club

Eleven Packington children in school years 2-6 continue to enjoy the after school coaching sessions at the Memorial Hall. Sessions are currently held every **Wednesday 3:30pm - 4:30pm** and will continue until Easter, hopefully restarting in September. If there any volunteers in the village that would like to assist in running these sessions then it would be greatly appreciated. A big thank you to Goff Lewis, Steve Mellor and Nathan Priestland who help with the school coaching most weeks.

Packington Primary School recently had their first table tennis match v All Saints, Coalville, with each school having four players. Austin Phillips starred for Packington winning 6 out of 8 games. Both teams can be seen in the photo below with Packington being in blue.

General junior coaching continues every **Wednesday 5:00pm - 7:30pm** with sessions run by our new Level 2 coach Dawn Sagoo, a division 1 player in the Staffordshire league. Junior coaching is £12 per month.

The club night continues every **Wednesday 7:30pm - 10:00pm**. With the development of the new membership scheme the club now has 30 adult members and 14 juniors. The adult section is now full and has a waiting list.

Graham Saunt
Packington Table Tennis Club
graham.saunt@gmx.com

Key Handover to Bright Hope

Pictured below are Kate and Peter Last receiving the keys for the new day centre from Steve McPherson - Group Development and Technical Director of Bloor Homes Ltd.

The ceremony last month marked the conclusion of 5 years work with Bloor Homes and the local council. The facility in Swannington has been funded by Bloor Homes as part of its support for local charities. The state-of-the-art 6,000 square feet centre boasts two complementary therapy rooms, counselling rooms, a quiet room, workshop for hobbies and training/ technical facilities, a dining room, lounge, conference room and offices.

It can accommodate up to 20 people in daycare for three days a week, where guests can enjoy daily activities and a hot meal at lunchtime. We will also host a wide range of services provided by Bright Hope and its partner organisations. NWLDC has provided the charity with a 150-year lease over the land at a peppercorn rent so we can call the building home for many years to come. This unique collaboration enables Bright Hope to develop and build on all we have learned and achieved over the past 20 years.
We now look forward to the next stage of developing our services in this wonderful building for the people of Packington and NW Leicestershire.

Bright Hope provides day care, counselling, befriending and complementary therapy for people with life limiting conditions, allowing carers to take a well-earned break.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the residents of Packington who have over the years supported us and continue to do so. We could not have done this without you.

Peter and Kate Last - Trustees

Bright Hope 01530 648553

Big Breakfast

Continued from page 1

Everyone said it was so nice to be able to sit and chat with people without mobile phones getting in the way, and so many volunteers have already said they will return next year.

With the raffle, donations and all the breakfasts purchased, we made a staggering £2500 for Bright Hope.

I would like to say a special thank you to Tim Livesey who very kindly donated all the mushrooms and to Pete at Daybreak Services who not only supplied all the food, but also made a very generous donation towards Bright Hope.

Thank you to members of Ashby Castle Rotary Club again for not only volunteering on the day, but also on the Friday evening to help with the setting up of the hall.

Without all the volunteers in the kitchen, front of house and the small meeting room (toast, tea, coffee, mushroom, and tomato choppers) the Big Breakfast simply would not happen.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
I look forward to seeing you next year so we can do it all over again.

Debbie Hamilton 07971 047283

debbie.hamilton7@yahoo.com

Packington Lunch Club

Packington Lunch Club continues to meet **12 noon** on the **third Wednesday** of each month. We average about twenty people and there is always a warm and friendly atmosphere. Members pre-order their meal from the varied menu provided each time, which is cooked to perfection by Rachael and Ruth who retained a five-star hygiene rating last year.

This month there is a choice of roast meat or vegetarian option with all the trimmings.

Our volunteer cooks are helped by Chris, Ruth's mum Steph, Pauline and Steve. Our thanks go to all these people who make Lunch Club function really well.

If anyone would like to join our friendly Lunch Club for a lovely meal, please get in touch with Pauline or Rachael.

Meals must be booked in advance.

Pauline Miles 01530 414378
Rachael Miles 01530 413795

Ashby Ivanhoe Garden Society

Our leader, Pat Jessop, sadly died on February 18th this year. She will be sorely missed as she had been the leading light of the group for many years. I joined only a few years ago and she was very friendly and welcoming. The society will carry on under the leaders **Jenny Davies and Julie Rowe.**

We would love to welcome new members to the group, you don't have to be an expert gardener to join. Membership of the club is £15 a year.

On **Tuesday 3rd September**, we will return to Packington Memorial Hall for our meetings at the new time of **1:45pm**. We felt Autumn was a good time to move to afternoon meetings as no one likes turning out on cold dark evenings!

A few upcoming events:

Tuesday 19th March
Plant swap and simple quiz.

Tuesday 16th April
Rose Marie Nash-Smith will return for another flower demonstration.

Tuesday 7th May
Marks the start of our summer garden visits when we visit the amazing garden of David Beasley at Beech House Osgathorpe. Full details of this and the rest of the garden visits are displayed on the Memorial Hall notice board.

If you would like more information on the above events or a copy of the programme for the rest of the year, you can contact me on the number below.

Pauline Miles 01530 414378

Packington Youth Club

Is it time to reopen this group?

The Youth Club that ran in Packington prior to Covid was flourishing. Although trying to recruit new leaders, the pandemic finally saw this group cease to meet.

There seems to me that there are more young people about in the village at present and I am sure they would benefit from the experience of attending such a club. As well as the social interaction there were various games and activities for all to enjoy.

A former member of the leader team, Sallie Ann Stretton said: "I really enjoyed my time helping to run this club. While it took a little time to get established, there were soon a good number of regular attendees. It needs a group of parents willing to get involved. The club previously met for one hour each week during term time."

If any parent interested would like to contact me, I am prepared to act as a catalyst to get things moving.

Once a leadership group is established, they would need to negotiate with The Memorial Hall Management Committee to arrange a meeting day and time to for the club to meet.

The Hall Committee does have an obligation to provide for youth activities for youngsters in the village.

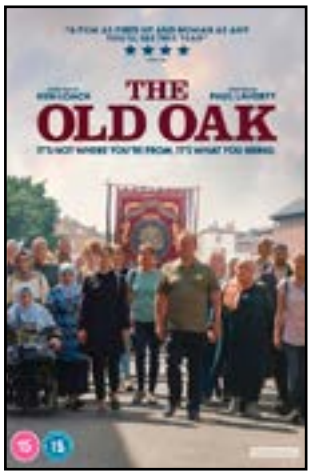
Mike Coke 07779 450143
Mike.coke59@gmail.com

Film Club

The first two films for this year have been a great success, achieving the highest audience numbers since the film club started back in 2015. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

On **Friday 12th April** we will be showing **The Old Oak** (15) a moving drama that depicts both the conflict and the hope which arises from integrating communities. The future is uncertain for the last remaining pub, The Old Oak, in a village in Northeast England.

The pub is the only remaining public space where people can meet in what was once a thriving mining community. TJ Ballantyne, the landlord, is only just managing to keep the pub open when the Old Oak becomes contested territory after the arrival of Syrian refugees.



For **Friday 10th May** we move to Ireland for the film **The Miracle Club** (12A) starring Maggie Smith. There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. With a little benevolent interference from their local priest, a group of close friends get their ticket of a lifetime.

Adult tickets are £5, children £3 and are inclusive of refreshments, available prior to the start of the film. No pre-booking needed, just turn up at the Memorial Hall where we look forward to seeing you all. Doors open at **7:00pm** and the film starts at **7:30pm**.

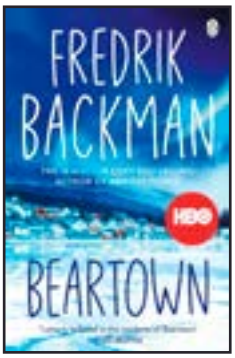
Packington Film Club Committee

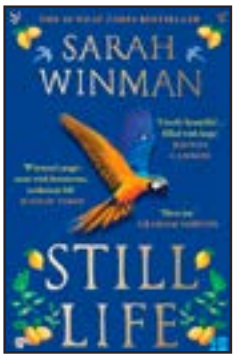
Packington Book Club

Last Wednesday of the month
7:30pm Memorial Hall meeting room
Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

The next books are:
Beartown by Fredrik Backman
(27th March)

Still Life by Sarah Winman
(24th April)





For further information, please contact:
Helen Edgington: 07766 086580
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Board Games

2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

Next dates: 28th March
11th and 25th April
At the new time of 1:00pm – 3:30pm
Memorial Hall meeting room
£2 - inclusive of tea, coffee and biscuits

For further information, please contact:
Helen Edgington: 07766 086580
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Packington History Group

Update - Preserving Packington's Past

Many thanks to all those who have already responded to the article on the front page of the previous issue no 124 of the Packington Post in which Packington Village History Group (PVHG) requested information from readers and residents about the date of construction of their individual properties.

We have had a magnificent initial response and think we already have sufficient data to be able to date the construction of all the houses in Brook Close, Century Drive, The Grange, Hall Farm Close, Homecroft Drive, and Nethercroft Drive. We have also received information to enable us to include the seven new bungalows being constructed on the soon to be named Mychecroft Drive adjoining Ashby Road.

We have had a good response from individual residents in almost every other road in Packington. We will get back to those who have raised questions about their properties as soon as possible.

There are however still big gaps in our data on Ashby Road, Bridge Street, Hall Lane, Heather Lane, High Street, Leicester Road, Measham Road, Mill Street, Normanton Road, Spring Lane, and Vicarage Lane where there are many individually built properties of varying dates.

We are hopeful that as the spring-cleaning season gets under way in Packington, residents will be venturing into their lofts, attics, garages, potting sheds, or even looking in their cupboards, filing cabinets, chests of drawers etc, and coming across those long-forgotten deeds and old manuscripts and will think to themselves, *I must make a note of that date of sale/construction of my house and email it to:*

Adrian Mongredien
adrian.mongredien@gmail.com

PVHG Chairman - Robin Boucher
randbboucher@googlemail.com

PVHG Secretary - Sue Brown
koorick99@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued help and support with our project.

Adrian Mongredien – PVHG

Request for information – Thomas Oakey

The History Group has obtained copies of three manuscripts written by villager Thomas Oakey in and soon after 1900, describing Holy Rood Church at that time. He tells us what he thought about changes which occurred back then and paints a vivid picture of church life. We feel that his scripts deserve a wider audience, but have a few questions which you may be able to help answer.

Photo Credit to Terry and Chris Hammond

Thomas was born in or about 1875, grew up at Redburrow Farm and in adult life farmed at Hill Farm, which was then situated in High Street just above the Bull and Lion. He married Janet, nee Blackburn in 1905 and they had children Thomas, Janet and Frederick. He died in February 1940 and was buried in the Holy Rood churchyard.

If you can help with any other information about Thomas's life, Robin Boucher will be pleased to hear from you. We would especially like to know where the original copies of his manuscripts may be.

Robin Boucher
randbboucher@googlemail.com
01530 411638

PHS Spring Fair

Packington Horticultural Society's (PHS) annual **Spring Fair** will be held at the **Memorial Hall** on **Sunday 21st April**.

Doors open at **10.00am until 1.00pm** and free tea and coffee will be available. Browse a range of local craft, gift and food stalls and grab yourself a bargain whilst supporting local businesses.

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 plant stall and we will be offering advice and guidance for those wishing to enter items into the annual Village Show, held in September. If you have any surplus plants, seeds or cuttings then please feel free to bring them along for our plant stall!

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

Harlow Carr Coach Trip

Another date for your diary is **Wednesday 19th June**, when PHS is planning a trip to the RHS Garden Harlow Carr in Harrogate. Tickets will be £25 including admission to the garden.

If you are interested in joining us on this coach trip, please email **Laura Bryant** at **laurajbryant@aol.com**

Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news on all our events.
www.facebook.com/packingtonshow

Amy Powell PHS

Open Gardens

Urgent Call for Gardeners!

We shall very shortly have to make a decision as to whether or not to hold the **Open Gardens Day** on the August Bank Holiday Monday. It is a very popular event and gives pleasure to a lot of people, but we can only run it if there are sufficient people willing to open their gardens to visitors.

We do already have a few volunteers, to whom we are very grateful, but if we are to run it in its traditional form then we shall need some more of you to participate.

If you are interested in opening up your garden then please do get in touch with me by the week commencing 8th April so that we can determine whether or not it is realistic to go ahead, or whether we should abandon the proposal or even perhaps vary the event a little, still showing some gardens but providing other attractions as well.

Your support and input would be very welcomed and much appreciated. Thank you.

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309

lbwistle@googlemail.com

Church Services

Church services listed for March and April will all start at **10:00am** except for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services which start at **7:30pm**.

Holy Rood Church, Packington

24th March	Palm Sunday Worship for All
28th March	Maundy Thursday Service
29th March	Good Friday Way of the Cross
31st March	Easter Family Communion
7th April	Service of the Word
14th April	Morning Prayer
28th April	Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

31st March	Easter Holy Communion
7th April	Morning Prayer
21st April	Holy Communion

Experiencing Easter

During the week leading up to Palm Sunday and the week following, the story of the life-changing events of the first Easter is being depicted at Holy Rood Church in visual form, using materials which allow everyone to experience Easter for themselves.

The children from Packington Primary School are each taking this Easter journey, but its meaning resonates with those of all ages. The stations will be in place for a few days and you are warmly invited to come and experience the events of Holy Week unfolding.

Toastie Thursday

We had a very busy Toastie Thursday in Church on the 22nd February with 20 children, parents and a few villagers enjoying lunch, cake and crafts.

As usual the junk modelling was very popular but was overtaken this time by stress balls, made with balloons and flour. Our theme was 'saying Thank you' in preparation for Mother's Day.

Next Toastie Thursday will be **on 30th May**

Coffee Morning

Join us church on the **4th Wednesday** of **every month** between **10:00am – 12 Noon**. Choose from a selection of homemade cakes to enjoy with tea, coffee or a hot chocolate. Books and jigsaws are always available for you to borrow or swap.

Lunch Event

Holy Rood church will be holding one of our lunch events **Friday 19th April 12 noon - 2:00pm**.

You are welcome to drop in or if you would like to book, please contact **Anne Wathes** on **01530 414621**. Menu is still to be decided so keep a look out for our posters!

Packington Primary School

Beaumanor Hall Visit

Our Year 3 and 4 children visited Beaumanor Hall in February and spent two days and one night at the centre taking part in a wide range of activities including climbing, survival skills and Nightline, an activity where they were blindfolded and had to follow a rope through various obstacles!

All of the children had a fantastic time and Mrs Carr and Mrs Dyche were very proud of their behaviour and the great teamwork shown when facing different activities and challenges.

World Book Day

We all had a great time dressing up for World Book Day in school on Thursday 7th March. We celebrated the magic of books with costumes, stories and a fabulous Book Swap! We were very impressed with everyone's efforts and thankful for all of the books donated. A big 'Well Done' to our costume prize winners from each class.

Cross Country Success

During Autumn and Spring, a group of our pupils took part in the North West Leicestershire Cross Country League held at Broom Leys, Measham, Hugglescote and Sir John Moore Primary Schools.

We had some amazing results across the board with five of our pupils being invited to the presentation evening to receive their medals and trophies.

Four boys were also invited to represent North West Leicestershire at the County Race on Sunday 3rd March. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to the parents/carers for braving the wet Saturday mornings!

Coming up:

Friday 22nd March

We will be holding our traditional Easter Service in Holy Rood Church. All of our families are welcome to join us.

Saturday 20th April

Ten Packington pupils will be taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon.

We can't wait to hear how they get on and look forward to sharing their experience with you all in the next issue.

Packington PSA Update

Packington Parent School Association (PSA) has been busy over the last few months installing lots of new additions to the school and planning events for 2024.

The role of the PSA is to organise events for the enjoyment of the pupils whilst raising money for Packington Primary School. We have recently undergone a restructure of roles and have said goodbye to a few members and welcomed a number of new members to the team.

To start the year off, we purchased and installed a new set of bookshelves for the school library. We also bought an outdoor table tennis table for the children to enjoy in the school playground.

We'd like to thank Packington Table Tennis Club who provided guidance of what to buy and to Osprey Engineering who gave a generous donation towards the table which will be installed in the playground in the next few weeks.

Finally, we have bought a shed for the welly area. Armed with bacon sandwiches, members of the PSA recently spent a Saturday morning laying the foundations for the new shed, giving the school playground a good spring clean, fixing the fences and generally tidying up.

Karn Turnbull
packingtonpsa21@gmail.com

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