



## Community Champion Award Winner Announced

### Community Champion Award

This year saw the launch of the new annual **Packington Community Champion Award** and the overall winner, **Anne Wathes** of Babelake Street was announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.



*Pictured – Winner Anne Wathes and Chairman, Chris Miles with Community Champion award*

There are many people within the community who give their time and effort into running all types of clubs and societies, working hard to make a real difference to the village and we are grateful to have them.

Chris Miles presented awards to finalists **Martin and Louise Tidman** and overall winner **Anne Wathes** praising their dedication and pronouncing them '**stars of the village**' who really make a difference.

Anne has worked very hard to meet needs within the community and every week is busy baking, organising and helping to run

social gatherings; doing sterling work for the village, young and old.

Martin and Louise are a familiar sight as they litter pick throughout the village. As Chris said, there's no need for a litter picking team anymore and the village is pristine.

We were delighted to present them with their awards.

### Packington Parish Council



*Pictured – left to right - Louise Tidman, Anne Wathes, Martin Tidman and Chris Miles.*



## Parish Council Chairman's Report

### Councillors and Meetings

The council meet every month, usually the first Tuesday and we have had a very good representation from all councillors throughout the year. In May of last year, a new council was formed. There were five nominations which returned unopposed and a sixth councillor was appointed following the co-option procedures laid down for Parish Councils. The new councillors were, Paul Fleetham and Bryan Smith.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their commitment and input into the wide variety of decisions and actions the council has had to make.

### Planning

The Parish Council are consultees in this matter and, whilst the Parish Council plays a small role in deciding the outcome of planning decisions, most decisions during the last twelve months were non-controversial. We have, however, stuck to the principle that Packington's development boundary, expressed by the NWLDC strategic plan, must be upheld.

It is disappointing to note that several new builds have been allowed outside this development boundary under the self-build rule. The result of an appeal by the Travellers for their site on Coleorton Lane was announced in their favour in June. Again, another development outside the development limits.

### Flooding

What a dreadful year it has been for the Gilawiskaw and for all who live and work near the flooding areas. There have been four major flooding events since September last year.

The first proved the worst and the others were not much better. Mill Street, Babelake Street and Heather Lane were badly affected and even national TV came out to interview some homeowners who had up to several feet of water in their downstairs rooms.

The council's working group FLOAT has met numerous times and there are ongoing

talks with the Environment Agency, LCC, Highways England, The Rivers Trust and Severn Trent, but it has been very difficult to get any commitment yet from any of these bodies to find a solution.

The council has asked NWLDC to make sure water run off upstream is mitigated and that the planned enlargement of Ashby is managed in terms of flood risk downstream. Whether this can be achieved is up to the planners and the NWLDC Planning Committee.

### Traffic Calming

This item is always on the agenda and the council would like to thank the residents Traffic Calming Group for their efforts into finding solutions. The County Council's view is that they have no money and will not support villages which have few traffic safety incidents over a five-year period. However, they may be able to approve measures where they are self-funded. Both the council and the Traffic Calming Group are now in a position to view what the LCC will approve and the costs of the measures.

### Police Reports

This is a standard agenda item. A police report is sent to the clerk before the council's monthly meeting. Throughout 2023-24, crime in Packington has been low and the improvement seen after the installation of a village CCTV scheme has been maintained.

### CCTV

The council has continued to debate this topic and has asked that quotes be obtained from suppliers in order to improve the current system. We thank Anthony Cash and Karl Saunt for overseeing the CCTV system.

### Neighbourhood Watch

I am pleased to report that our new Councillor Bryan Smith has undertaken a lead role in this area. He has renewed and found new contacts to enable a co-ordinated Neighbourhood Watch programme for the village. This was an integral part of the council's recent "Welfare and Safety Event".

### 137 Funding

The council is able to give financial support to recreational activities and facilities. 137 funding is responsible for the maintenance of the play equipment and the grass cutting of the Recreation Ground on Measham Road. Maintenance of this facility has been undertaken by staff from the NWLDC Works Dept. and paid for by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed a grant of £2500 for financing the Packington Post for another year and also support for the Horticultural Society and the Traffic Calming Group, paying venue costs for shows and meetings.

### Grants

The Parish Council are able to distribute grant funding to projects within the Parish under the 137 rule. We are also able to distribute money acquired from the Solar Farm Community Fund.

### Solar Farm Grants

The council manages funds which are supplied by two Solar Farm Companies. The Packington Brownies, who meet at Hill Farm and the Packington Community Choir have both received funding this year.

### Entrances to the Village

Again, I must pay tribute to Councillor Bob Martin who has taken responsibility for the planters at all entrances to the village. He has been the driving force to get these planters and make them up with colourful displays of flowers. He and his team of helpers are much appreciated.

### King's Coronation

The Parish Council was instrumental in setting up a working party to mark this occasion. A party in the park event was staged successfully and we engaged the school in a poster competition. The posters were judged and then used to decorate the lamp posts around the village. The winners of each age group received a small prize along with an English oak tree and a winner's plaque. The trees can be seen planted on the roadside bank of the Recreation Ground. Special thanks go to the Organising Working Party who made things happen.

### Charities

The Parish Council is responsible for managing two charities; **The Recreation Ground Charity** and **the Earl of Huntingdon Charity**. The Huntingdon Charity is a parcel of land around 17 acres adjoining Hill Farm Spring Lane. The rent from this land is used to support widows and widowers within the Parish of Packington.

The Recreation Ground Charity provides a space for recreation which is fitted out with numerous facilities and is a suitable area to hold events such as Party in the Park, football matches, bonfire parties, and general play. The Trustees are the Parish Councillors and they are responsible for its maintenance. The main income for this facility is the proceeds raised from the annual bonfire party and grants from the 137 Parish Council Budget.

### Freedom Of Information

The council is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and all business conducted by the parish can be viewed on our website. Parish meetings, audits and notifiable material will still be posted on noticeboards.

In conclusion may I thank our hard-working clerk who has gone that extra mile to keep this council on the straight and narrow. She maintains our website, is our financial officer and guides us through procedural and policy matters whilst preparing thoroughly for meetings. She contacts hundreds of officers and officials on our behalf over the year and keeps everyone informed. Thank you, Alex.

To finish, may I say that I might have forgotten to mention some minor issues in this report. For instance, I have not mentioned finance as much as I should have done. In my defence, can I say that you can find all relevant facts and figures of the Parish Council's business on our website:

**[www.packingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.packingtonpc.org.uk)**

### Chris Miles Chairman

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](mailto:editor@packington.info)**

## Welfare and Safety Event Update

The Packington Welfare and Safety Partnership launched on 15<sup>th</sup> March with residents turning out to see and hear from the village groups that attended.



Representatives from Neighbourhood Watch, Packington Social and Kind, the Church, FLOAT, Packington Communication Group and the Traffic Calming Group all took the time to tell us more about their work and their plans for the future. We also had representatives from the local police and from first responders who gave demonstrations of resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator.



**The Neighbourhood Watch Team** are working to re-connect with representatives and reinvigorate the scheme across Packington. They will be looking for volunteers to fill any gaps and creating an action plan. Together with the CCTV and Packington Watch team they are key to safety and security in the village.

**The CCTV** scheme has helped over the years to identify traffic or individuals coming into the village and help the police with evidence following an incident. The Parish Council is working with the CCTV group to formalise the scheme and improve it where necessary.

**The Packington Communication Group** – home of the Packington Post, email alerts, [www.packington.info](http://www.packington.info), Facebook page and welcome pack for new residents encouraged us to let them know about new residents so that they can receive the welcome pack and be added to circulation lists.

**The Traffic Calming Group** - formed in the last 2 years, is determined and driven to get better traffic calming for Packington – they are working with all parties to get results. One of the main issues is funding but they are working to find a solution, even if it means self-funding. They thanked PCSO Nick Hayling and colleagues who have helped to increase the number of visits from the police van to Packington.

**LOAT** continues to liaise with the County Council, NWLDC and the Environment Agency to push for works to reduce flooding in the village and to improve the warning system – currently the flood alert monitor is downstream of the village meaning that alerts are received too late.

**Holy Rood Church** – representatives reminded us that there are events such as Coffee and Chat at the church and the lunch group provide a hot lunch on a regular basis for those who want to meet up over a good meal.

**The WhatsApp Groups** – a useful communication tool over the last few years and a vital way of keeping in touch. Please note that Social and Kind have now changed to Packington Chat and Packington Notice Board respectively.

### Next steps ...

We held this event to mainly communicate the idea of the **Packington Welfare and Safety Partnership** and our first question is *"can we improve what is here now?"*

Thank you to all of the groups and everyone who came along to the meeting and for your continued hard work.

### Packington Parish Council

#### Local Development Update

As most of you know, the Parish Council has been working hard to maintain new housing development within the development boundary set by the District Council. As the District Council does not have a core strategy or local plan in place, the boundary appears to be very fragile, allowing developers to have greater opportunities to build in open countryside outside the historic limits to development. Officials at the District Council, who we pay for through our Council Tax, have been working on a plan since 2006!

Recently, the District Council conducted a consultation on the proposed draft for a New Local Plan in the NW Leicestershire area. On a cold Autumn Day, council officials were stationed outside Tesco's in Ashby offering the chance to look at the proposals. Notices asking for your views were in the local paper and online too. The results have just been published and the responses appear to be few.

The Parish Council were told that the District Council had a healthy five-year land supply for new development. In January and February, this was challenged by developers who won their appeal. The District Council were also taken to a judicial review by developers wanting to build 600 houses at Moneyhill and again they succeeded. Due to this decision, we're told Severn Trent stepped in, prohibiting any further development within the catchment area of the Gilawiskaw and the River Mease.

**Chris Miles Chairman**

### May Day Celebrations

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, the Pennyroyal Garland Dancers, accompanied by a handful of Packington Morris Men, once again visited the village to keep the annual May Day tradition alive. Plenty of people gathered to watch Eliza be crowned this year's May Queen, with attendant, Frankie, by her side.



Children from the village and Packington primary school proudly showed off the May sticks they had made, gaining full approval from the Garland Dancers and Morris Men.

As tradition dictates, the dancers then set off with their newly crowned Queen to parade through the village. Joined by many others, music and smiles were plenty as everyone joined in to spread good cheer before returning to the Bull and Lion for some welcome refreshments, and of course, more singing and dancing!



## Packington Traffic Calming Group

Readers may have recently noticed Community Speed Watch Campaign signs displayed on lampposts throughout the village and people in hi-vis jackets lurking on street corners! This is due to a campaign organised by the group with Leicestershire County Council.



Members of the PTCG, along with volunteers from the village, recently received training to record the speed of traffic in an attempt to deter high speed motorists, and to highlight and obtain yet more evidence of the traffic speed problem we have in Packington.

- Between 3.00pm and 4.00pm on one day, 33 vehicles were recorded exceeding 35mph on Ashby Road.
- Between 5.00pm and 6.00pm on one day, 14 vehicles were recorded exceeding 35mph on Measham Road (a speed of 50mph recorded)
- Between 7.00am and 8.00am on one day, 18 vehicles were recorded exceeding 35mph on Measham Road.
- Numerous offenders have been noted as residents from the village.
- Unfortunately, the highest speeds recorded so far (**52mph** on Ashby Road and **61mph** on Bridge Street – both with a 30mph limit) were **motorists who live in the village!**

This is very disappointing, and we clearly have a long way to go in getting our message across – **SPEED KILLS!**

We have now received a detailed proposal and costing for potential solutions for traffic calming from Leicestershire County Council, following a site visit from one of their engineers. Whilst a lot of work is still yet to be done, we feel that this is a major step towards gaining the support of LCC and puts us in a position where we are now able to progress in the direction of quantifying a traffic calming scheme and attempting to gain monetary support from various sources. If anyone is aware of any available grants or organisations we can approach, please get in touch!

The PTCG was formed 2 years ago following a near fatal accident opposite the Recreation Ground entrance. We would like to thank again, the residents of the village and readers of the Packington Post for your continued support.



For 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)

**PTCG Secretary – Nicola Beanland**  
[nicolabeanland37@gmail.com](mailto:nicolabeanland37@gmail.com)

### Packington Film Club

Our film for **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** is **Allelujah** (12) starring Jennifer Saunders, Judi Dench and Derek Jacobi.



Allelujah is a warm and deeply moving story about old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanizing the local community: they invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. What could go wrong? Allelujah celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.

This will be our last film before our summer break. We will return on September 13<sup>th</sup> with a new batch of films. Watch out for details in the next issue, along with posters around the village.

Adult tickets are £5, children under 12 £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.

Please note our doors will not open until **7.00pm** to allow us time to safely set up the hall.

**Packington Film Club Committee**  
[carolgraham1@aol.com](mailto:carolgraham1@aol.com)

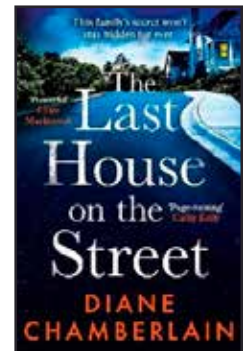
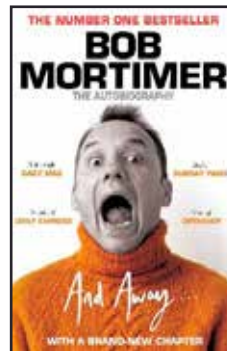
### Board Games Club

The board game afternoon is now taking its summer break and will be returning in September. Look out for details in the next issue of the Packington Post.

### Packington Book Club

**Last Wednesday of the month**  
**7.30pm Memorial Hall meeting room**  
 Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

The next books are:  
**And Away by Bob Mortimer**  
 (May 29<sup>th</sup>)  
**The Last House on the Street by Diane Chamberlain**  
 (June 26<sup>th</sup>)



For further information, please contact:  
**Helen Edgington: 07766 086580**  
[helenmedgington@gmail.com](mailto:helenmedgington@gmail.com)

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## Packington History Group

### Construction Survey Update

As I write this article, Packington Village History Group (PVHG) has now received data confirming the age of construction of almost half of the properties in Packington. We think there are c360 individual residential buildings in Packington and we now have information on the date of construction of 170+ of these.

From this existing data we may be able to gather an appreciable number of additional properties adjoining the ones where dates of construction have already been supplied, where there is evidence that adjoining properties were constructed by the same builder. Developments constructed between the World Wars were frequently on a much smaller scale than in the post war years and restricted to two or three properties being built at a time.

In some cases, we have been given sight of deeds relating to Packington properties which go back to the Hastings family who owned the freehold of many village properties up until the 1920s.

Some house deeds have reminded us of the hardship involved in life in the early part of the previous century where property owners had the need to rely on a specified neighbour's well for their water supply and also help fund its upkeep!

Many thanks to all those who have responded so far. If you have not contacted us yet, please help our village project and get in touch with the date of construction of your property.

**Adrian Mongredien**  
adrian.mongredien@gmail.com

**PVHG Chairman - Robin Boucher**  
randbboucher@googlemail.com

**PVHG Secretary - Sue Brown**  
koorick99@gmail.com

## Packington Commemorates D-Day

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**6.00pm to 10.00pm**



**Join us on the Recreation Ground for a night of fun and games as we light the beacon to commemorate D-Day.**

## Crufts Win for Poochies Café Dog

In March 2024, I took the day off from my busy café and travelled to Birmingham with my border collie, Miz Janey, to compete at Crufts, the world's greatest dog show. Miz Janey gained third place in a large class of border collies in the Post Graduate class. This was Miz Janey's first award at Crufts and I am delighted with her special win.

## Bev Smith - Poochies of Packington





## Packington Horticultural Society

### Coach Trip to Harlow Carr

Packington Horticultural Society is planning a trip to RHS Harlow Carr on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**.

Join us to explore the beautiful growing landscapes, woodland and wildflower meadows and lakeside gardens at this stunning RHS garden in Harrogate.

The coach will leave Packington Memorial Hall at **9.00am** and return at approximately **7.30pm**. Tickets are £26 per person and include travel and admission to the garden. We have limited seats available so to book your place or for more information contact:

**Laura Bryant**  
[laurajbryant@aol.com](mailto:laurajbryant@aol.com)

### Spring Fair

Thank you to everyone that attended the recent Spring Fair, held in the Memorial Hall. It was lovely to see many familiar and new faces.



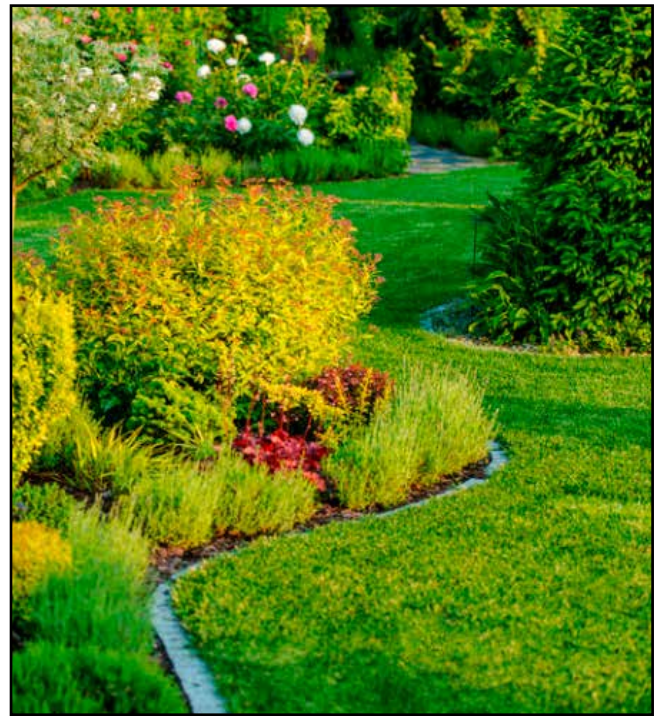
Also, thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets, cakes and plants – we raised just over £330 which will be added to the pot to be distributed amongst local village organisations.

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

**Amy Powell PHS**

## Open Gardens to Return

We are delighted to say that we do now have enough people willing to open their gardens on **August Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup>** to make the event a viable proposition and we are very grateful to them.



However, if anyone else is willing to "offer" their garden, we shall not turn them away as the more gardens open, the better the event will be. We are also planning to have some stalls and other attractions too. Please look out for more details in the next issue of the Packington Post.

We have already had some kind offers from other people willing to help in some way e.g. with serving teas and marshalling on the car park, and we hope to create rotas for these tasks so that no-one is tied up for several hours.

We shall need more help though, in a variety of capacities, including making cakes, so if you have not been in touch yet but will be able to offer support in some form or another, then please do contact myself or Anne.

**Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309**  
[lbwistle@googlemail.com](mailto:lbwistle@googlemail.com)

**Anne Wathes 01530 414621**  
[anne.wathes@live.co.uk](mailto:anne.wathes@live.co.uk)

## Packington Primary School

### Comic Relief / Easter Service

Since our last update we took part in fundraising for Comic Relief by wearing red to school and preparing our best jokes for the class. We also held our annual Easter celebrations with an egg hunt organised by our PSA, who also arranged for the Easter bunny and some 8-week-old lambs to visit!



Our pupils made some fantastic creations for our Easter decorating competition, from Easter bonnets and hats to Easter shoes and paintings. We finished the term with our traditional Easter service in Church, where the younger children paraded in wearing their bonnets and hats.

### Mini Marathon

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, a group of five Packington children took part in the 2024 TCS Mini London Marathon.

This was an amazing and memorable experience, finished by crossing the iconic London Marathon finish line!



All children received a medal for completing the 1-mile run.

Pupils from school years EYFS to Year 7 could attend and there were a massive 386 children in our wave. The children and their families all had a great time and say they can't wait till next year.

### Y6 Visit to Warning Zone

Recently our Year 6 children visited the Warning Zone in Leicester. The Warning Zone combines vital messages on personal safety and online safety through stimulating experiences which help to prepare children for increased independence and their transition into early adolescence. This is done through a series of scenes set up by the Police, Fire Brigade, Electricity Board etc and the children have to respond with appropriate actions. Our pupils always find it a very interesting and fun experience.

### May Day Celebrations

On the morning of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, we made May sticks in school ready for the annual Packington May Day event which saw the crowning of the May Queen, Eliza, who was accompanied by her attendant, Frankie.



Both girls looked beautiful and will be swapping roles for the May festival in school. There was then a parade around the village and it was wonderful to see so many families in attendance, waving their May sticks.

### Coming up:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – we are inviting our families into school for our 'Magnificent May Festival' which will include May Pole dancing, pat-a-cake polka and stalls created and ran by our older pupils.

**Packington Primary School**

**Eco Church**

Some of you will already know that Holy Rood Church has been working towards a **Rocha UK Bronze Eco Church** award. This entails looking at how we look after the church building and church yard, using low energy bulbs and generally trying to be more conscious of being more environmentally friendly. In other words, caring for God's Earth.

In the Autumn, to encourage more wild birds, we are setting up bird feeders along the school boundary and a selection of nest boxes around the churchyard.

We have David Fill and his late wife Daphne to thank for the surveys by the Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre in 2015 which resulted in our churchyard becoming a Local Wildlife Site.

Although this agency is no longer running, Caring for Gods Acre and the Wildlife Trust are very keen to continue keeping these spaces as a haven for wildlife.



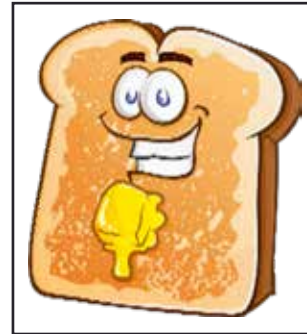
Have you seen the lovely display of bluebells again this year around the church? The earliest British botanists called them crowtoes, but they've also been called cuckoo's boots, wood hyacinths, lady's nightcap and witches thimbles.

If you would like to know more of what we are trying to work towards then please do get in touch.

**Anne Wathes**  
**01530 414621**

**Toastie Thursday**

Come along to Holy Rood Church,  
Packington on  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon - 2.00pm**



Join us in our local church for cheese toasties, toast and spreads and cake.

Don't be bored on Toastie Thursday... Come along and do crafts, junk modelling and have fun! Everyone Welcome.

**For more info please contact Anne Wathes on 01530 414621**

**Church Services**

Church services listed for May and June will all start at **10.00am**.

**Holy Rood Church, Packington**

12 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Morning Worship
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Holy Communion

**Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath**

19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost – Holy Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Morning Prayer
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion

**Woodfield Team United Service**

This will take place on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**. The location is to be confirmed so please keep an eye out for a poster on the church noticeboard nearer to the time.

## Christian Aid Envelopes

Every house in Packington should have recently received a Christian Aid Envelope inviting donations for this year's collection. As this is a 'deliver only' scheme, the envelopes can be returned to the address on the envelope or delivered to my address: 13 Babelake Street, Packington.



If anyone would like their envelope collected, please get in touch with me. Thank you.

**Doreen Gasson**  
**13 Babelake Street, Packington**  
**01530 412012**  
**gasson123@btinternet.com**

## Food Bank Appeal

Just a reminder that we do collect items for the Ashby Food Bank, which operates under the auspices of the Trussell Trust to help people in crisis. If you would like to contribute in any way, there is a red box under a table just inside the north door of the Church to place any donations.

All items are welcomed but the following are on the priority list of items needed please: Tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, jam, tea, custard, dog food and laundry pods or tablets.

Items currently not required, pasta, tinned soup and baked beans.

Many thanks.

**Lesley Birtwistle**  
**01530 413309**

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