



Nov 2024

issue no 129

£2.00 (Village residents free)



Christmas In Packington



Party Time

On **Saturday 14th December**, the Memorial Hall will be alive with festive cheer when not one, but two parties will be happening for village residents of all ages.

Full details on page 8

**THE GREAT
PACKINGTON
VILLAGE
SOCIAL**

Come join and celebrate Xmas.
Catch up with friends and neighbours over a drink
& food whilst supporting us raising
money for a disability swing for the Rec ground.
And to top it off there will be a quiz!

Saturday 14th December
5pm - 10pm

Packington Memorial Hall
Free Admission
Children Welcome
Quiz £2 Per Person

FOOD, BAR & QUIZ

Santa Is Coming To Packington!

The North Pole have confirmed that santa and his sleigh are coming for a special visit to Packington!

Full details on page 7

Holy Rood Church

From the Christingle to the Pop-Up Nativity, a special visit from the bishop during Carols by Candlelight to Midnight Holy Communion, the calendar for Holy Rood Church is brimming with services for people of ages – not forgetting the popular Soup and Pudding event after the service on New Year's Day.

Full details on pages 9 and 12

HOLY ROOD CHURCH
Invites you to
CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING
with the
Derby Salvation Army Band

At the Bull and Lion
Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm

Come and join the singing with mince pies and mulled wine. Wrap up warm and bring a light.



Memorial Hall Treasurer Vacancy

This is a key role for someone who cares about supporting one of the village's favourite gathering places. You'll need to set aside around 2-3 hours a week on average for this role, although it can be a bit busier in February and October when year-end/AGM and annual reporting is due. You do not need accounting experience; training will be provided and support will be ongoing.

As our Treasurer, you'll be an important part of our Management Committee and Trustee of the Charity helping us keep the Village Hall's finances in order. Your main tasks will include:

- Bookkeeping in our QuickBooks online system
- An authorised payment approver/set up payments on our online banking system
- Working closely with our Booking Secretary regarding deposit returns
- Paying invoices to tradespeople and suppliers.
- Sharing financial updates at our monthly committee meetings.
- Preparing information for our annual Charities Commission submission.
- Keeping track of our yearly income and expenses.
- Contribution to the development of policies and procedures
- Attendance at monthly committee meetings (third Tuesday every month except August)

This is a volunteer role, but any expenses will be covered. You will be following someone who has done a lot of work setting up all the process, procedures and governance needed however all ideas are welcome to be discussed at the meetings. Plus, you will get to work with a lovely bunch of people who all care about our Memorial Hall.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact us using the details below and we can arrange an informal chat with the current treasurer who will be in situ to provide your handover. You are welcome to arrange to attend a committee meeting to meet everyone if you wish to and further calls with the chair and other committee members can be arranged.

Louise Gratton – Booking Secretary
07793 008906
info@pmhv.uk

Memorial Hall Christmas Closing

The Memorial Hall will be closed on **Friday 20th December** and will reopen on **Thursday 2nd January**.

Louise Gratton – Booking Secretary
07793 008906

New Parish Council Clerk

Hello all and thank you for the warm welcome to the village of Packington. I am **Victoria Webster**, your new Parish Council Clerk. I've been a clerk for over six years now so have gained quite a bit of experience working with Parish Councils and I love the job.



I live in the village of Mountsorrel with my husband and young son. I love reading, baking and spending time with my family. Also, I really love Christmas. I hope to meet you soon and look forward to my first Parish Council meeting in the village in December.

Victoria Webster
clerk@packingtonnpc.org.uk

Mobile Library Service - Correction

In the last issue of the Packington Post, we reported that the Mobile Library visits the village every third Thursday of the month. Unfortunately, this information was incorrect.

The mobile library currently visits the village **once every three weeks on a Thursday**. The next visit is due on **Thursday 5th December**. The van arrives on High Street, opposite The Grange at **2.45pm** and stays there until **3.30pm**.

Helen Edgington

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Sadly, this summer saw an increase in the number of criminal offences committed in the village, including attempted burglaries, vehicle theft and shed break-ins. Fortunately, as the nights draw in, the number of reported incidents has reduced significantly.

It has been encouraging to see the great support, advice and early warnings provided on the **Packington Watch WhatsApp Group** – this is proven to be a useful tool that has assisted residents and the police with their investigations. Key contributors are thanked for their valuable input. All residents are reminded that in the event of criminal activity, the first point of contact should always be the police and at no point should 'matters be taken into your own hands'.

With the festive period fast approaching, below are eight useful Christmas crime prevention tips to proactively make your home safer.

- This winter, deter burglars by ensuring that windows and doors are locked at all times.
- If you plan to be away over Christmas, plan ahead. Cancel any deliveries and arrange for a trusted neighbour to park on your drive. On social media, do not advertise your plans for being away.
- Leave lights on when out at night or use a timer switch when going away to give the impression that the house is occupied.
- Prevent vehicle theft by keeping it locked with keys out of sight and/or in a Faraday pouch.
- Deter burglars by installing lighting, smart doorbells or CCTV outside your home.
- Beware of distraction burglars. If you are not sure, do not open the door.
- Leave valuables or Christmas presents out of sight to deter opportunistic burglaries.
- When Christmas shopping, make sure that your vehicle remains locked and that no valuables or shopping bags are on display.

Support your neighbours, be vigilant and stay safe this Christmas.

Luke Townsin 07557 525779
Neighbourhood Watch Team Member

Packington Traffic Calming Group

Hopefully, residents will have noticed the increased presence of the Mobile Police Camera Van in the village. Over the last few weeks, the Mobile Police Camera Van has been located across the village on Ashby Road, Bridge Street and Measham Road. The data from these visits has not yet been disclosed.



The increased presence would appear to be as a result of the Community Speed Watch campaign as the PTCG have received correspondence from Leicestershire County Council advising:

"To support your recent Community Speed Watch team, Leicestershire Police, will where possible, be enforcing by deployment of the Safety Camera Van team".

The PTCG have been working closely with the Parish Council and together have been sourcing alternative costings for the traffic calming solutions.

For any comments or suggestions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact:

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

PTCG Secretary – Nicola Beanland
nicolabeanland37@gmail.com

Packington Bonfire Night in Aid of Packington Recreational Charity

What a great evening. The weather was good, the wind light and most of all there hadn't been any rain for over a week which meant preparations were easier to do as the organisers were able to take tables, tents and BBQ etc up to the top of the field by car and trailer. It was also easier to make up a bonfire which Matt Wathes did with his farm machinery.



The bonfire was mainly wooden pallets this year, although there were a couple of sheds as well. Instead of taking nearly thirty minutes to get going as last year's rain-soaked event did, this year's bonfire was absolutely fully ablaze in seconds. It certainly lit up the sky. Well done Matt!



At this point there were still spectators coming onto the field and the first session of fireworks were held back for quite a while. We knew there were plenty of people coming as we had stopped selling online tickets as we had reached our capacity of a thousand people including children. So, we know we had to disappoint those who were unable to purchase tickets. Financially the charity did well and raised over £5,000 on tickets and a sellout BBQ raised a further £800.

A really special thank you to the team of volunteers who helped run our bonfire night. So a big shout out to Rachael Miles for collecting the food and drink. To the food group headed by Mel Dughan with Iona and Flo Dring, to Dave, Lisa, Mia and Dan Gammon. To the firework team, Alan Pearson, David Dring, and David Goacher. Also to the ticket checkers Colin Lench and Marian Mugglestone and to Mr Fix It and all-round help and support, Bob Parry. Also for the on field marshals, Simon Tebbett, Steve Salt, Zac Holden and Beth.

Great work everyone and a big big **THANK YOU**.

If you would like to be part of the bonfire team for 2025, please contact me on the details below.

Chris Miles 07856 179485
christopher.miles@sky.com
Organiser and Chairman of the Trustees

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
ProCon 2023
 LEICESTERSHIRE PROPERTY AND
 CONSTRUCTION AWARDS 2023
 Medium Residential Scheme Award **WINNER**

Land's End to John O'Groats

On **Saturday 7th September 2024**, four members from the Packington Trundlers set off from Land's End, cycling 980 miles to John O'Groats to raise money for their chosen charities - Mind, Special Effect and Alzheimer's.

Stu, Dom, Charlie and Robin (pictured left to right below) have been training relentlessly all year for the event and the training paid off! During nine days of cycling, they endured sun, rain, wind, hailstones and woke on some mornings to their tents covered in ice, but they kept smiling and cycling. For Robin, Charlie and Dom this was their third time completing the event for which they received their golden jerseys as worn in the photo.



Finally, if anyone would like to join the **Packington Trundlers**, they meet in the car park of the **Bull & Lion** at approximately **10.00am** on a **Saturday and/or Sunday, weather dependent**. Their routes range from 25 miles to sometimes 30 or 50 miles and often involve a cake and coffee stop. All abilities are welcome – you do not have to be LEJOG standard!

Nicola Beanland

Spanish 3 Peaks for Loros Hospice

We made it - four mountains over three days! Back in **September**, we walked nearly 50 kilometres (roughly 31 miles) and climbed Spain's highest peak which stands at 3,482m. Mum and I (pictured left to right below) felt the altitude and the wind but after two days of walking in the clouds, we finally got sun and views on the last day which was a nice treat.



We wanted to say a massive **thank you** to those who sponsored us from our article in the July issue of the Packington Post and to those who have donated in Daybreak Services. To date we have raised £2714!

Emily and Nicky Wilsher

Annual Charity Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our annual charity event in Holy Rood Church, either with your help on the day, behind the scenes or coming along and spending money! This year was amazing, and after expenses, we have been able to donate **£850.30** shared equally between The Royal British Legion and The British Heart Foundation.

Winners of the raffle were:

1st Prize Hamper - Mrs J Smith
 2nd Prize Planter - Mrs E Burton
 3rd Prize Bottle of Gin – Mrs J Smith
 The Christmas cake - Mrs L Leitch
 97 'sweets in the jar' - Doreen Gasson

Anne Wathes 01530 414621

Packington Film Club

Our **free** film for Christmas this year will be **The Muppet Christmas Carol** on **Friday 13th December at 7.30pm**.

The fabulous Muppets band get together to teach Scrooge (Michael Caine) the meaning of Christmas in this charming adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale.



There is no charge for this film and as usual, refreshments will be available prior to the start of the film. No pre-booking is needed, just turn up at the Memorial Hall.

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

Whether old or new patrons, we look forward to seeing you all for our last film of the year.

For details of our January film, please use the contact details below.

Packington Film Club Committee
carolgraham1@aol.com

PACKINGTON BOOK CLUB

Date: last Wednesday of the month

Venue: meeting room at the Memorial Hall

Time: 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Next meeting: November 27th

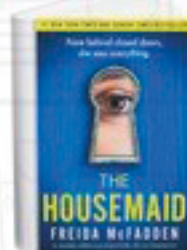
(No meeting in December)

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

The next book is:

The Housemaid

by Freida McFadden



Helen Edgington: 07766 086580

email: helenmedgington@gmail.com

Board Games Afternoon

The group meets on the **second and fourth Thursday** of **every month** from **1.00pm to 3.30pm**.

As several of the people go to the exercise class in the main hall first, there is time to eat your own sandwiches and have a cup of tea before the games begin at 1.30pm.

There is always a good selection of games including Rummikub, UpWords, Quiddler and Five Crowns. We encourage people to bring their own games, and we've learned Azul, Sequence and Qwirkle, as well as a quirky version of Scrabble.

We break for tea/coffee and biscuits and there's always lots of fun and chat. If you're looking for a pleasant way to spend a Thursday afternoon for just £2.00, then look no further.

Helen Edgington 07766 086580
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Packington Village History Group

In December 1900, Thomas Oakey, member of a well-established Packington farming family, wrote a description of Holy Rood Church as he had observed it over the previous twenty years. He wrote again about the church over the next few years. Taken together, his manuscripts give a lively picture of church life in a period of significant change.

Robin Boucher has edited Thomas's writing with an introduction and explanatory notes in "Changing Scenes" which will be published in late November.

CHANGING SCENES

Thomas Oakey and Holy Rood Church,
Packington, 1875-1908



Edited by Robin Boucher
Packington Village History Group

Thanks to a grant from the Parish Council's Solar Fund, it will be available to purchase at a cost of just **£5.00** per copy. We will hold a sale of the book in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room on **Saturday 30th November**, from **10.00 am to 1.00 pm**. All are welcome to drop in.

Robin Boucher 01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Celebrating 90 Years

Most of you will remember Harry and Gwen Ikin and their family, long time Packington residents, who first moved here in 1957. Their home was the first house you saw when driving in to the village along Coleorton Lane and Gwen ran an off-licence there for many years.

Sadly, Harry died eight years or so ago and, whilst very reluctant to leave us, some three years ago, the attraction of a bungalow in Belton, which had the added benefit of enabling her to live nearer to one of her daughters, enticed Gwen away.



This recent photograph shows Gwen celebrating her 90th birthday, surrounded by the different generations of her wonderful family!

Lesley Birtwistle

Santa Is Coming To Packington

Santa and his sleigh are coming to Packington on **Friday 13th December**. From **4.00pm**, Santa will be in the **Bull & Lion car park** for a special meet and greet with children and their families. After that, he will take a magical tour around the village on his sleigh spreading festive cheer to all.



All proceeds raised from this event will go towards the Ashby Rotary Club's Christmas charities.

Karl Saunt 07905 439115

Hello from The Bull & Lion

Hello to everyone reading this from the Bull & Lion team. Following the unavoidable closure last weekend, we are pleased to share that we are now open.

We are all working hard to get everything up and running to provide a warm welcome and pleasant atmosphere for the residents of Packington and all our customers. There is still so much to do so please do excuse anything that might be missed out in this first post.

We are just in the process of starting to serve food and have a Facebook page where you can access information about our menus and serving times. Our new chef is Sue Bowker, a resident of Packington. Each week we will be having offers such as a *pie and drink night* as well as a *Friday fish and chip night*. After a fair amount of upheaval with workmen updating the kitchen and storage facilities, we ask that you please bear with us as we get the pub properly organised.

Following a successful Halloween party, we are now concentrating on Christmas and New Year and are busy trying to organise events that you will enjoy as Christmas is approaching fast. We are pleased to say that the **Salvation Army Carol Singers** are booked for **Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm** and as is tradition, the **Packington Morris Men** will be here for their **Boxing Day** dance.

We do realise that not everyone has access to Facebook so please feel free to pop in and see us, even if it's only to have a query answered.

In the meantime, Christmas greetings to everyone from the Bull & Lion.

Bull & Lion
01530 415257

Annual Christmas Party

The most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner and **Ashby Rotary Satellite Group** are thrilled to invite you to their **Annual Christmas Party!**

This year, we are pulling out all the stops to ensure an unforgettable day filled with joy, laughter, and festive cheer and no Christmas party is complete without a visit from the jolly man himself! Mark your calendars and join us on **Saturday 14th December, 2.00pm – 5.00pm** at **Packington Memorial Hall** for a day of festive

fun and celebration. Our Christmas party is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season.



Following on from the children's Christmas party is the **Great Packington Social**. Starting at **5.00pm**, it's the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours over a drink or two with food from Sever's Pizza. Entry is free and the quiz will be £2.00 per person.

Money raised from the children's party and the evening quiz will be put towards purchasing a new disability swing for the recreation ground. We are also looking for sponsors for the party and would welcome local business support in raising money for this worthwhile cause.

Don't miss out on the most magical event of the year. We look forward to seeing you there. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Please book your tickets in advance by visiting the website below.

Antony Cash - Ashby Rotary Satellite Group
ministryofmaterials@icloud.com

ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-inozevk

Church Services

Holy Rood Church, Packington

24 th November	10.00am	Holy Communion
1 st December	4.00pm	Christingle
8 th December	10.00am	Toy Service
15 th December	6.00pm	Carol Service
22 nd December	10.00am	Readings & Carols
24 th December	4.00pm	Crib Service
24 th December	11.30pm	Holy Communion
1 st January	11.30am	Poems & Prayers
5 th January	10.00am	Morning Worship
12 th January	10.00am	Morning Worship
26 th January	10.00am	Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

1 st December	10.00am	Tree Service
15 th December	10.00am	Holy Communion
25 th December	10.00am	Holy Communion

St John's Church, Donisthorpe

29th December 10.00am
Woodfield Team Holy Communion

Christingle Service

Each year, our knitted Holy Family, Mary and Joseph, are welcomed into homes around the village, spending a night in each inn, (or Posada in Spanish). If you would like to welcome them into your home during Advent, there is a list in church that you can add your name to, indicating the date you'd like to host them.

Christingle The Children's Society

Let's come together to celebrate Christingle

Christingle is a great way for communities everywhere to get together this Christmas to catch up, make some special memories, and have fun.

Come and join us!

Holy Rood Church Packington

Sunday 1st December at 4PM

Our speaker is **Vernon Bayliss** from **Ashby Youth for Christ**

Refreshments served after the service by the school PSA

Scan the QR code to find out more.

christingle.org

Then, at the **Christingle Service** on **Sunday 1st December**, Mary and Joseph are given to the first on the list to look after for a day and a night and then returned at the **Crib Service** on **Christmas Eve** by the last person on the list. A diary accompanies them, so if you would like to do so, you can describe the adventures you had with them during their stay with you or you can send pictures and text to put on our website.

Toy Service with Pop Up Nativity

The annual toy service is where we ask folk to bring presents for children (new items, unwrapped) and, during the service, to lay them under Christmas tree. They are then taken to the Marlene Reid Centre where they are distributed to families in need. Donations of wrapping paper will also be welcome.

Following the Toy Service is the Pop-Up Nativity where children (and mums and dads too) choose what they would like to be as we re-tell the story of Jesus' birth. Our donkey from Phoenix Children's Foundation will also be here for you to meet so do come along. Refreshments available after the service.

Carols by Candlelight

I am sure that many of you will agree that carol services are always a special part of the Christmas celebrations. This year ours is even more special than usual. We are very fortunate that the Bishop of Loughborough, the Rt Reverend Sajū Muthulaly, has accepted our invitation to come to speak at our service on **Sunday 15th December**. Bishop Sajū was born in Kerala, in South India and grew up in a leprosy hospital in Bangalore, where his family were part of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. After obtaining a theology degree in Bangalore in 2001, he moved to the UK to train for the ministry and became Bishop of Loughborough in 2022. He has an arresting presence and is truly an inspirational speaker – not to be missed!

Christmas Readings and Favourite Carols

On **Sunday 22nd December at 10.00am**, our service will be more informal than usual with favourite carols and readings. There will be a list at the back of church where you can vote for the carol you like best and we shall choose those with the most "votes" to sing on that morning.

Lesley Birtwistle
01530 413309

Packington Primary School

Harvest Festival

We had a lovely Harvest Festival service in Church at the beginning of October with beautiful singing and presentations from each class. Thank you to everybody who supported our collection for the Ashby Food Bank. We collected 117kg of food! Our head boy and girl accompanied Mrs Dyche to the food bank and they were delighted to receive our donation.



Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book fair was in school for five nights and, based on purchases made, we raised a fantastic £288 to spend on new books for our school library. Huge thanks to everyone who purchased a book or stationery item from our fair.

Open Afternoon

Our open afternoon for prospective pupils and their families, for our September 2024 intake, was great fun. Visitors were able to spend time viewing the school, meeting our staff, visiting our reception classroom and even playing in our Forest School Area!

We still have availability for one-to-one tours of the school with our head teacher, Mrs Burton. We also have a few spaces available in other year groups so please call the school office on **01530 412425** if you would like to arrange a tour.

Faith Visit

Children from our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes had the opportunity to take

part in a Faith Visit trip in October. This involved spending the day visiting three different places of worship in Derby - The Hindu Temple, The Mosque and The Guru Nanak Gurdwara. At each place of worship, the children took part in a talk and activities led by a person of faith.



All of the children were impeccably behaved and respectful of the different faiths.

Congerstone Cross-Country

Our first small school cross-country event of the season was organised by Congerstone Primary and was held at Market Bosworth Country Park. A group of 10 determined pupils took part and did amazingly well in their respective races.



We would like to say a very big thank you to Barry Alldread and Alldread Estates for supporting the children on the day and generously sponsoring our new cross-country t-shirts seen in the photo above.

As we go to print, we are eagerly awaiting the results of the first of the North West Leicestershire cross-country events held at Sir John Moore, Appleby on **Saturday 9th November**.

Life Education Bus

Early in November we received a visit from Harold the Giraffe and the Life Education Centre.



Workshops were carried out in each class with an age-appropriate theme covering areas such as friendships, road safety, managing emotions, keeping fit and healthy and learning about our amazing brain! All of the children were captivated throughout and found the sessions enjoyable and informative.

Packington Primary School
office@packingtons.leics.sch.uk
 01530 412425

Packington School Association

The PSA has had a busy few months running and planning events for the pupils to enjoy, whilst also raising money for the school.

New gardening tools were recently purchased for the children to use during their Forest School activities whilst PSA members spent a Sunday morning using the tools to spruce up the playground; planting the 2,000 bulbs purchased through the North West Leicestershire Council grant scheme. These will hopefully help to make the playground look bright and colourful come Spring.



Our next big event is Winter Wonderland on **Thursday 12th December**. This is a fun event with stalls and activities for pupils and their families to enjoy. We will have reindeer from the Phoenix Children's Foundation and the children will have the chance to meet Santa. The event is one of our biggest fundraising opportunities and as such, we will be holding a raffle with some fantastic prizes including: a Champney's Spa Day, a signed Derby football shirt, afternoon tea at Poochies, a meal for two at the Belper Arms, a real Christmas tree, a One Percent Club personal training voucher plus many more vouchers, gifts and products.

Children at the school will be sent home with some tickets, however we're opening up the raffle to everyone. So, if you'd like to help support the school by purchasing raffle tickets, then please contact **Kate Carver** at katecarver@hotmail.co.uk.

The raffle will be drawn on **Friday 13th December** and all winners will be contacted.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PSA's fundraising events this year.

Karn Turnbull
packingtonpsa21@gmail.com

Packington Primary School will close on Friday 20th December for the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2025.

Daybreak Services Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Sunday 22 nd December	8.00am - 1.00pm
Monday 23 rd December	6.30am - 6.30pm
Tuesday 24 th December	6.30am - 5.00pm
Wednesday 25 th December	Closed
Thursday 26 th December	Closed
Friday 27 th December	7.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 28 th December	7.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 29 th December	Closed
Monday 30 th December	6.00am - 5.00pm
Tuesday 31 st December	6.00am - 5.00pm
Wednesday 1 st January	Closed
Thursday 2 nd January	6.00am - 5.00pm

The Packington Post Team
would like to take this opportunity to wish all
our readers, contributors and volunteers a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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for the
right
advice?



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SOUP, PUDDING

AND A

GLASS OF WINE

New Years Day

11.30am – 2.00pm

A short service of poems and prayers starting at 11.30am

Lunch being served from 12 Noon.



Join us in Church for
both or just the meal.

You are welcome to either turn up on
the day or to book a place please phone,

Anne 01530 414621 or

Lesley 01530 413309

Holy Rood Church Packington

Donations welcome towards the upkeep of the church

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