



Get Involved with Your Village

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities currently available for you to get involved with your village; from lending a hand at the upcoming Big Breakfast to utilising your expertise with a role at the Memorial Hall.

Community groups and events rely on the great work of volunteers so regardless of whether you have the odd hour once in a while or can spare a few hours each month, there really is something for everyone to get involved with as you'll read inside this issue.

Spot The Otter

Back in November of 2024, Christine Hammond was delighted to spot an otter in the Gilwiskaw brook that runs through the bottom of her garden. Although blurry, Christine managed to snap a quick picture before he or she swam away.

Has anyone else spotted it? Do let us know by contacting editor@packington.info



Packington's Big Breakfast

Returning for its thirteenth year, this annual charity event will once again be held at the Memorial Hall on **Saturday 1st March**.



All proceeds from this year's event will go to **LOROS**, a local hospice charity supporting people and providing care in and around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Full details on **page 4**.

Flooding – Who to Contact

With flooding becoming a regular issue in the village, Leicestershire Council have issued an infographic detailing who to call for what.

See **page 12** for details.



The Memorial Hall Needs Your Help!

We are looking for a **Maintenance Manager** and a **Treasurer**. Both roles are voluntary but expenses are covered. The Memorial Hall simply **cannot** run without them.

Maintenance Manager Role

Oversee the general maintenance requirements for the hall including:

- Assessing the monthly work required within the existing annual schedule
- Speaking to and arranging work with existing contractors
- Organising access for contractors to carry out work
- Confirming work has been undertaken to agreed requirement
- Attending monthly committee meetings (except August)

This will take approximately 2-3 hours a month not including the meetings. You do not need experience, just a willingness to help.

Treasurer Role

Manage the monthly expenditure of the hall finances including:

- Bookkeeping in our QuickBooks online system
- One of the authorised trustees on our online banking system
- 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
- Attending monthly committee meetings (except August)

This will take approximately 2 hours a week on average, but can be busier in February and October when year-end/AGM and annual reporting is due. You do not need accounting experience as training will be provided and support will be ongoing.

Interested in finding out more? Please contact us using either of the options below.

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

Rubbish!

Driving in and out of our village there is rubbish littering the verges on all four entrance roads. I know that Martin and Louise Tidman do a sterling job of clearing this away but really this is a job for everyone.

Previously, there has been a morning collection organised, meeting outside the Memorial Hall. Safety equipment, bags and pickers were provided. Sadly, except for *The Big Help Out* for the King's Coronation celebrations, this has not happened since Covid put a stop to such gatherings.



Afterwards, arrangements were made to collect the bags of rubbish left on the verges which were then brought back to the hall to be collected at a later stage by North West Leicestershire Council.

Let's hope this can be organised once again this year and make the journey in and out of our village more pleasant.

Mike Coke

New Blood

Mike Coke has decided to step down from the editorial committee of the Packington Post.

“Joining almost as soon as we arrived in the village, I spent 7 years as editor and have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the group. No doubt I will write the occasional article and will always look forward to reading each issue.

“The Packington Post is in good hands but will always need and welcome new members. Please contact the editor Sharron Miller to find out more.”

Mike Coke

Fond Farewells

Not only is the team to say farewell to Mike Coke after thirteen years, but also to Rebecca Taylor, the co-ordinator of our village Welcome Packs.

Rebecca, or Becky as many will know her, has been involved with the post for the last eight years, meeting and greeting newcomers to the village whilst delivering the welcome packs from the Packington Communications Group.



It goes without saying that all of the team, and most likely the readers, are deeply grateful for the dedication both Mike and Becky have shown during their time with the Packington Post, they will be missed!

We send them our thanks and all good wishes for the future.

Sharron Miller
Packington Post Editor

Join The Team

The Packington Post are actively looking for new members to join the team to help write and proof the magazine which is delivered to all residents of the village six times per year. For many, especially those who don't use social media, the magazine is an invaluable source of welcome information, helping village residents of all ages to feel connected with the community.

So, what's involved?
Not as much as you might think!

The majority of articles in the post get sent in by the numerous groups and activities that are held in the village, but we would like to add to this by welcoming anyone who might like to write the odd article or two.

These are then compiled into the magazine by the editor, proofed by the editorial team then sent off to the printers for typesetting.

We meet just six times a year to share feedback and suggestions.

Also, in previous years, we have had **junior reporters** who have given their views on village life, events and observations by way of a short article.

We are eager to restart this by welcoming youngsters of all ages to get involved with emailing articles, short or long, to us to share with the wider community. Junior reporters are not expected to attend meetings.

If you'd like to help out with:

- Proof reading
- Writing/sharing an article or two
- Help develop/support the website side
- Updating the online events calendar

Then please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

For an informal chat about the post contact **editor@packington.info**

Or for the website/events calendar contact **robert@packington.info**

The Big Breakfast Returns

On **Saturday 1st March**, the Memorial Hall will be a hive of activity as it opens its doors for this year's charity Big Breakfast.

From **9.00am until 1.00pm**, an army of volunteers will be cooking up full English breakfasts and baps for all to enjoy.

English and vegetarian breakfasts will remain priced at £10.00 for adults, £5.00 for children and include your choice of tea, coffee or orange juice and toast. Breakfast baps, such as bacon, sausage and egg will remain priced at £5.00 and include a tea or coffee.



This annual village event gives everyone the chance to meet and chat with other village residents, whilst enjoying a hearty breakfast and supporting charitable causes.

Proceeds this year will go towards supporting LOROS and the fantastic work they carry out around Leicestershire. They looked after my husband just before he very sadly passed away last February, and I would like to be able to thank them for not only my late husband's care but also for the care and kindness they bestowed upon all my family.

As usual, volunteers are always needed to help make this event a success so if you'd like to get involved or can help out in any way, please do get in touch, you will be made most welcome!

Debbie Hamilton
07971 047283
debbie.hamilton7@yahoo.com

Young Entrepreneurs

Back in 2024, village residents Matthew Stretton and Henry Miller (pictured below) decided to take a leap with their part time bicycle business when it outgrew the garage they were working from.

Aged just 23 and 19 years old, they gave up their full-time jobs and signed a lease on a shop in Huntingdon Court, Ashby. They opened the doors to the public on the 7th December and haven't stopped since!

Whatever your choice of cycle, they offer servicing and repairs for both standard and electric bicycles, road bikes, mountain bikes and everything in between.

Alongside servicing and repairs, they have a wide range of bicycles to purchase to suit all ages and budgets. Stockists of various brands, they also have helmets, a wide range of parts and accessories as well as a variety of cleaning and care products for you to choose from.



For full details of what they offer, why not pop in and see them or visit their website.

strettonbikes.co.uk
07548 871476
strettonbikes@gmail.com

This is a paid advertorial.

Join us at the PHS Spring Fair

Packington Horticultural Society is delighted to kick off 2025 with our Annual Spring Fair, now in its fourth year, taking place on **Sunday 6th April** in the **Memorial Hall**.

The Spring Fair brings together a fantastic mix of local businesses, craftspeople, and artisan makers, all showcasing their skills and offering unique products.

Put the date in your diary and look out for further details nearer the time.

Join our Lineup of Stalls!

Are you a local business, craftsperson, or maker? The Spring Fair is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your talents.



If you would like to be part of the fair and have a stall, please contact **Amy Powell** by **Friday 7th March** using the email at the end of the article.

PHS will also have a plant stall and will be offering tips and guidance for those wishing to enter items into the **Annual Village Show** – which this year will be held on **Saturday 6th September 2025**.

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

Amy Powell PHS Committee Member
amyl_powell@yahoo.com

Packington Community Choir

Packington Community Choir had a busy festive season!

Our Christmas Jumper Day rehearsal raised over **£100** for **Save the Children**, and a packed Christmas concert at Donisthorpe church raised **£925** for **Macmillan Nurses**. A huge thank you to all involved, and to all those who contributed to raising such a wonderful amount.



The choir continues to enjoy the use of the digital piano, purchased through a grant from the Parish Council's Solar Fund. This piano is stored at the church and can be loaned to anyone in the village. If you have an event that you wish to book it out for, please contact myself on the number below or **Chris Miles** on **07856 179485**.

We rehearse every **Thursday 7.00pm to 9.00pm** at **Holyrood Church** for a weekly fee of **£5.00**. Everyone is welcome.

Aimee Harrison 07967 316645
info@packingtoncommunitychoir.org





Registered Office: The Old Cottage Hospital, Leicester Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1DB
 Tel: 01530 560939
 Email: admin@davidgrangerdesign.com
www.davidgrangerdesign.com



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

Packington Film Club

Happy New Year!

We started off 2025 with the film *Thelma* on 10th January and continue on **Friday 14th February** with **Operation Mincemeat**, based on a true WW2 story, starring Colin Firth and Matthew MacFadyen.



In 1943, two unconventional intelligence officers, Charles Cholmondeley and Ewen Montagu, devised a cunning strategy: to trick the Nazis into miscalculating the Allied invasion route. This audacious scheme became known as Operation Mincemeat. Cholmondeley, a dreamer yearning for adventure, teamed up with the meticulous Montagu, an aristocratic barrister. Their contrasting personalities formed a uniquely effective partnership, spiralling them into one of history's great espionage tales. The duo crafted their plot around a corpse, transforming it into a tool of deception - they planned to drop the dead man off Spain's coast, where German spies would find him...

We have a great line-up of films to show during the year featuring comedy, adventure, crime, drama and musicals. Coming up before our summer break will be **Paddington in Peru**, **A Haunting in Venice**, **Going in Style** and **Wonka 2023**. More details to follow.

Tickets remain priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children under 12, both inclusive of refreshments which are 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.

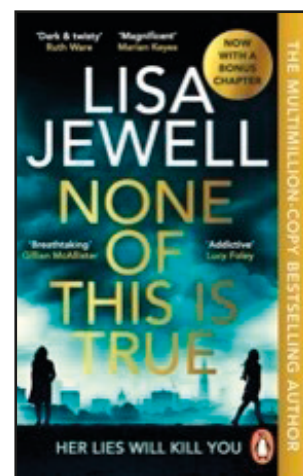
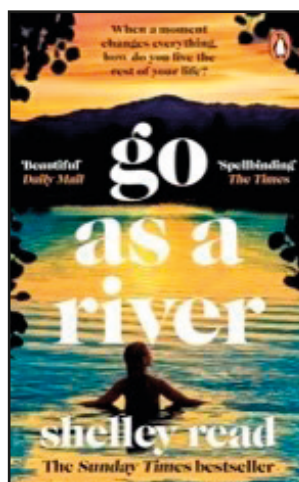
Please note our doors will not open until **7.00pm** to allow us time to set up the hall.

Packington Film Club Committee
carolgraham1@aol.com

Book Club

If you're looking for a New Year's resolution that's easy to achieve – to read more and meet lovely new people – come along to Packington Book Club.

On **Wednesday 29th January** we are reading **Go as a River** by **Shelley Read**. "A spellbinding novel of finding home where you least expect it." (The Times)



On **Wednesday 26th February** there's a complete change of pace with the 2024 Crime Novel of the Year, **None of this is True** by **Lisa Jewell**.

We meet once a month, on the **last Wednesday of the month** at **7.30pm**, in the meeting room at **Packington Memorial Hall**. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

For further information, please contact

Helen Edgington 07766 086580
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Packington History Group

Thank you to everyone who purchased a copy of Changing Scenes, which highlights Packington farmer Thomas Oakey and his descriptions of Holy Rood Church in the early 1900's. Copies are still available through the church or from Robin Boucher (see below).

The History Group will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Meeting Room. Why not come along and help plan our activities for 2025?

Information Wanted

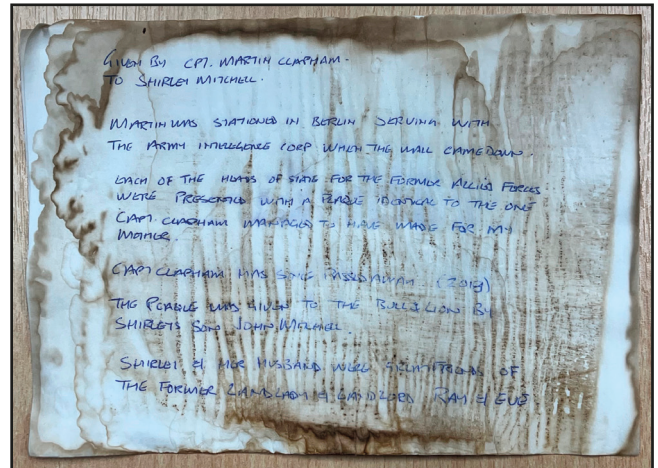
When the previous occupants at the Bull & Lion left last autumn, the History Group acquired a small plaque with a piece of the Berlin Wall attached.



An inscription on it reads:
To Shirley Mitchell from Allied Staff Berlin



There is also an accompanying note (picture below) saying that it was given to Shirley by Captain Martin Clapham, (as seen in the bottom left picture) then passed to the Bull & Lion by her son John. The Mitchell family being described as great friends of Ray and Eve who used to run the Bull & Lion.



If anyone knows more of the story behind this, please get in touch.

Robin Boucher 01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Board Game Afternoon

If you enjoy board games, come and join us in the **meeting room at Packington Memorial Hall**. We've got some new ones to learn after Christmas, but we never choose ones with too many rules! If you have a favourite you'd like to share with others, why not bring it along?

We meet on the **second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1.30pm – 3.30pm**. We break for tea, coffee and biscuits which are provided and there is always lots of fun and time to chat with others.

Everyone is welcome to come along for just a small charge of **£2.00**.

For further information, please contact

Helen Edgington
07766 086580
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Packington Primary School

December was a busy but magical month in Packington with lots of festive activities and events for the children.

Christingle

We kicked off the month by helping to make the Christingle candles for the traditional Christingle service in Holy Rood Church. It was lovely to see lots of our families attending the service.



Pantomime

Later that week we visited Loughborough Town Hall for our annual pantomime trip to see Snow White. The children and adults all had a wonderful time and it was great to experience the pantomime all together.

Christmas Jumper Day and Winter Wonderland

We all wore our Christmas jumpers to school on the day of the Winter Wonderland, arranged by our Packington School Association (PSA). This was a fantastic event with stalls, games, refreshments, a

raffle with some amazing prizes and a visit from Santa and his reindeer!



Everyone had a wonderful time and we were extremely grateful to our hard-working PSA for pulling it all together.

The event raised a huge **£1,174** and the PSA would like to thank everyone who donated prizes and to The Phoenix Children's Foundation for bringing in the reindeer.

Nativity

Our EYFS & Key Stage 1 children worked very hard to practice for their nativity performance of The Fleece Force.

Parents and families were treated to two performances and we were super proud of all of our younger pupils who did amazingly well on stage.



Toy Appeal

Mrs Carr and our School Council arranged a toy collection for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. As a school, we collected 33 donations which was amazing! The toys were dropped off to Charnwood council before Christmas, who work with the Salvation Army in helping families during the festive period. Massive thanks to all who donated.



Ben Fogle Visit

Just before all the Christmas madness we were treated to an unexpected visit from Ben Fogle who was in the area viewing the bison at one of our families' farms.



Ben wowed us all with talk of the many adventures he has been on and all of the amazing things he has experienced. He then invited the children to ask questions and they did not hold back. We now all know how to use the toilet when climbing Mount Everest! Pupils and staff were captivated and inspired and we were so thankful for this opportunity.

Specsavers Visit

Sight technicians offered to visit school in December to carry out basic sight tests on our EYFS & Key Stage 1 pupils. Those who had consent were checked in school and a short report was sent home to parents/carers to advise if a further full assessment was recommended.

Our families found this service helpful and so we are pleased to welcome Specsavers back into school later this month to check our older pupils and any younger children who missed out last time.



Coming up:

Our Owls class are due to visit the National Justice Museum in Nottingham to enhance their topic on Crime & Punishment.

A group of our Key Stage 2 pupils have been busy rehearsing and are attending the Young Voices concert at Resort World Birmingham to participate in a choir of up to 9000 voices!

Details of their experiences will be shared in the next issue of the post.

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

Packington School Association (PSA)
packingtonpsa21@gmail.com

A Welcome Visitor to our Carol Service!

When Saju was first appointed as Bishop of Loughborough, he said that the thing which he was most looking forward to in his new role was meeting and connecting with people from all walks of life. We now know why – he proved to be a natural in terms of talking to people, engaging with them and putting them at ease.

Imposing in stature and in voice, he made an unforgettable impact when he came to speak at our Carol Service in Holy Rood Church in mid-December, to our congregation of over 100. Friendly and relaxed though he was, his message challenged us – what or whom is the Star that guides you in your life? His directness was refreshing. More than a few were heard to comment, “We could do with a few more bishops like him!”



Posada

Thank you so much to all those of you who hosted Mary and Joseph and their donkey during Advent, on their journey to Bethlehem. They very much enjoyed their visits and if you would like to read about their experiences, their diary can be seen on the table at the back of the church. Some extracts are also posted on the church website, details can be found overleaf.

Lesley Birtwistle
01530 413309

Toy Service

A lovely (if slightly chaotic) service of the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Baby Jesus was enjoyed back in December.



Mary and Joseph travelled safely with three very well-behaved donkeys, Chester the collie dog plus Grace, our angel, and several other children. Thank you to Anita, staff and children who also joined us from the Phoenix Charity.



Christingle

Thank you to the school and particularly the year 6 children who supervised the making of the Christingles. Also, to the children who took part in the service with well-read prayers and an upbeat version of This Little Light of Mine, with Chris Miles on piano. A total of **£176** in donations has been sent to **The Children's Society** to help with their work of protecting youngsters.

Anne Wathes
Children's Society Representative
01530 414621

Praise for New Year's Day Soup & Pudding Service

Thoughts on a day to remember 2025

I was fortunate to be able to attend on New Year's Day for both the short informal service of carols, readings and poems led by Lesley and the lunch which followed.

Lunch started with a good selection of homemade soups with croutons, brown or white bread and butter with wine or a soft drink. A wonderful selection of homemade mouthwatering puddings followed, served with cream or custard, finishing with coffee or tea including a chocolate.

I was joined by Diane Poole and we both agreed what a lovely way to celebrate the first day of 2025. To be in the company of friends and other people like us who were pleased of the opportunity to join in on such a special day. It was a really good feeling.

All was made possible by the hard-working team of volunteers who were willing to give their time to produce such a delightful meal and join in the success of the day.

by **Joan Robertshaw**
Holy Rood Church Member

Organiser Anne Wathes adds:

A lot of people see family over the Christmas period but find themselves alone at New Year. Our event provides company and a nice meal with us serving 44 lunches this year - a record for us!

We received **£300** in donations from the event which will go towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

Thank you to everyone who came to either the service, lunch or both and gave so generously. Also thank you to my team!

Anne Wathes
01530 414621

Upcoming Church Services

All services start at 10.00am on a Sunday and may be subject to change.

Holy Rood Church, Packington

12 th January	Morning Worship
26 th January	Holy Communion
2 nd February	Breakfast Church
9 th February	Morning Worship
23 rd February	Holy Communion
2 nd March	Breakfast Church
9 th March	Morning Worship
23 rd March	Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

19 th January	Holy Communion
2 nd February	Morning Prayer
16 th February	Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday Service

Details have yet to be finalised for this year's Ash Wednesday service which falls on **Wednesday 5th March**.

Once confirmed, details will be shared via the village email alerts and on our website: www.packingtonandnormantonchurches.org.uk

Breakfast Church

With positive reviews from our three-month trial last year, we have decided to hold this informal service on the **first Sunday of each month** starting at **10.00am**.

Toast, crumpets and croissants will be served from 10.00am followed by a short 20 – 30 minute very informal service.

Do come along and try it out!

Toastie Thursday

The date for our February **Toasties and Crafts** day is yet to be confirmed so please keep a look out for posters around the village with more details.

Anne Wathes
01530 414621

Be Flood Ready - If there is a risk to life, call 999 immediately.

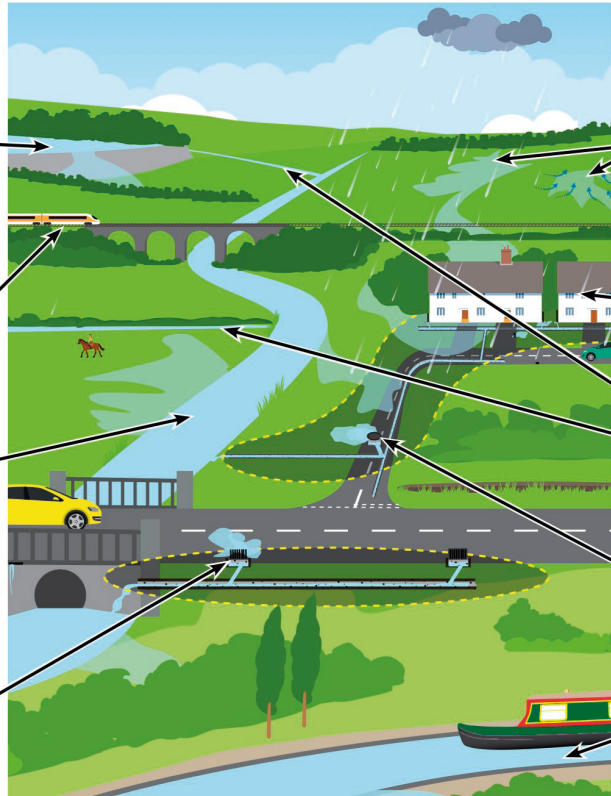
Advice from leicestershire.gov.uk/flooding states that - *You are expected to obtain your own household protective measures and/or sandbags (or equivalent in advance of a flood event).*

Reservoir:
 Environment Agency
 EA Incident Hotline
0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)
 Floodline **0345 988 1188**
 (Flood Warning Information)
 Check for Flood Warnings:
check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Railway:
 Network Rail
03457 11 41 41 (24 hours)

Main Rivers:
 Environment Agency
 EA Incident Hotline
0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)
 Floodline **0345 988 1188**
 (Flood Warning Information)
 Check for Flood Warnings:
check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Public Highway:
 Leicestershire County Council
 Highways
 Report a road problem online:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-road-problem
 or **0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)**



Surface Water and Groundwater:
 Leicestershire County Council
 Lead Local Flood Authority
 Report a Flood online:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood
 or **0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)**
 Check for Flood Warnings:
check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Private Residence or Business:
 Private owner responsible for the property

Ordinary Watercourses:
 Leicestershire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority
 Report a Flood online:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood
 or **0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)**

Mains Sewer & Wastewater Sewer:
 Severn Trent:
0800 782 4444 (24 hours)
 Anglian Water:
03457 145 145 (24 hours)

Canal:
 Canal and River Trust
0303 040 40 40 (Office hours)
0800 479 9947 (24 hours)

If a river or watercourse runs through your land you may be a riparian landowner. For more information visit www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

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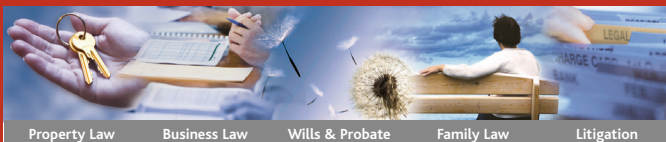
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The Packington Post receives grant funding from Packington Parish Council. The content of the Packington Post is determined by the editor of the Packington Post in conjunction with the editorial team. The views expressed, from time to time, in the Packington Post do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council.