Packington Post
www.packington.info

Sept 2024 issue no 128 £2.00 (Village residents free)

Annual Summer Events Success

Open Gardens

After a wet few days, August Bank Holiday Monday was blessed with good weather and the crowds came once again for the return of Packington's Open Gardens.

Read more on page 6

Packington Duck Race

It was touch and go with this event again this year with the flow speed of the Gilwiskaw being just permissible! With good attendance and a steady queue for tickets, proceedings got underway just after 5.30pm.

Read more on page 7

Community Spirit Blossoms at 81st Packington Village Show

Earlier this month saw the 81st Annual Village Show, held at Packington Memorial Hall. Once again, the event saw a fantastic turnout from local residents and those from neighbouring villages.

Read more on page 8

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Packington Parish Council

Has a vacancy for Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
10 hours per week (days/times flexible when required)
Salary: NJC Salary Point 22 - £31,364 pro rata
Actual Pay - £8,476 pa equivalent to £16.30 per hour

We are a friendly enthusiastic Council, who are keen to make a positive difference to our Parish. We have lots of ideas and are looking for a Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to support in the efficient running of the Parish Council.

As well as being friendly, enthusiastic, well organised and calm, we are looking for someone who:

- has excellent people skills, including the ability to work with Councillors, members of the public and third-party organisations
- is proficient with the use of email, Microsoft word, excel and PowerPoint
- is an accurate record keeper, well organised and able to meet deadlines
- will, with appropriate training be able to deal with the day-to-day management of the Parish Council including updating the website
- can identifying funding opportunities and help prepare bids for grants funding
- with training and support, ensure the smooth running of the Parish Council and suggest new ideas or working practices
- will undertake any other duties as may be reasonably required from time to time and which may involve additional evening or daytime meetings

The job is carried out from home and the successful candidate may be expected to start working towards obtaining CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) if it is felt to be necessary in the future and once they have completed the initial 6 month training period.

Please contact Chris Miles, via phone or email (see below) if you would like to know more about Packington Parish Council, the job or would like an application pack.

The closing date for return of applications is **Friday 11th October**, interviews to be held in the week commencing **14th October**.

Please send applications to:

Chris Miles (Chairman) Packington Parish Council
14 Babelake Street
Packington
Leicestershire
LE65 1WD
chmilesppc@gmail.com or **07856 179485**

Editorial Note: *Packington Parish Council is responsible for administering the Parish Precept of approximately £25,000 which is collected as part of your council tax. It also administers the Community Benefit fund which is income from two local Solar farms. In addition, councillors are Trustees of two village Charities - the Recreation Ground Charity and the Earl of Huntingdon Charity. The latter owns 16 acres of land on Spring Lane which is currently let to a local farmer.*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the current clerk, Alex, for all her help and attention over the past few years and we wish her every success and happiness in her new position.

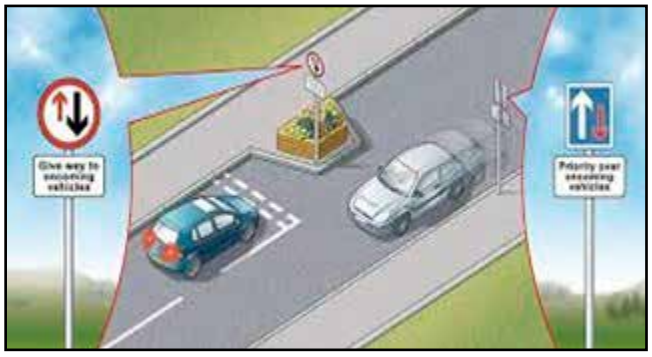
Packington Traffic Calming Group

We recently received data from the Community Speed Watch campaign which took place in April. This shows the speed of the traffic recorded before and after the campaign. This data clearly shows a reduction in speed on all roads following the campaign – a positive result!

However, the data also shows that the speed limit on Ashby Road and Measham Road is still being exceeded, even **AFTER** the campaign. The 85th percentile reducing from 44mph to 37mph on Measham Road and from 45mph to 43mph on Ashby Road. The mobile police van did not visit the village in June but made two visits to Normanton Road and Coleorton Lane in July with seven offences recorded. We are currently making enquiries with the police as to whether the location of the mobile van can be changed at each visit to Packington rather than being restricted to Normanton Road.

Readers will be aware from our article in the May edition of the Packington Post that we have been liaising with Leicestershire County Council who advise that there are no funds available for traffic calming in Packington. We are therefore left with no choice but to raise the funds ourselves and we have asked LCC for a detailed proposal of possible traffic calming solutions which we have now received. They have confirmed that the estimated cost to complete the works based on their plan is **£154,763.28**.

This could be achieved through a phased delivery over a period of time on smaller projects, circa £25,000. The proposal includes a substantial scheme to reduce vehicle speeds on Measham Road and Ashby Road consisting of a priority narrowing, see the image below as an example.



We have applied to the Parish Council for a contribution from the Solar Farm Grant. We are also making enquiries with the Parish Council with regards to two charities for which the councillors are trustees - the Recreational Ground Charity and the Earl of Huntingdon Charity. Unfortunately, following enquiries with the National Lottery and People's Postcode, the group do not meet the criteria and are considered ineligible.

On a final note, a resident from the village reported to the group a vehicle being driven by a parent or carer from Packington Primary School being parked extremely close to the junction of Mill Street and Measham Road, and then reversing blindly from this position onto Measham Road. A collision was narrowly avoided with a transit van travelling at speed along Measham Road.

PLEASE take care when driving and parking in our village. 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

The **Traffic Calming Group** was formed after a near fatal accident outside the Recreation Ground entrance in July 2022. As residents will know, access to and from the Recreation Ground is dangerous for pedestrians and vehicles, with either narrow or no footpaths and limited visibility. The speeding motorcyclist involved in this incident suffered horrendous injuries, but fortunately survived.

Packington Village History Group

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our project dating the buildings in the village. A summary of the position at mid-August showed that we have dated 216 buildings, which we believe to be just under 60% of the total. We do recognise that in the case of some older properties, the answer will be “Not Known”. We would still like to hear about more properties and we are particularly lacking dates for Ashby Road, High Street, Normanton Road and Mill Street. You can pass dates on to us via our website **pvhg.uk** (it’s the first item in the Records sub-menu) or email us at **survey@pvhg.com**

During the Autumn, we expect to produce a publication highlighting Thomas Oakey’s writings about Holy Rood Church. Thomas, who was born into a farming family in Packington in 1875, presents a vivid picture of changes which the church went through at that time. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for a grant from the Solar Fund to help with publication costs. We will give more information about this in the November Issue of the Packington Post.

Robin Boucher 01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Mobile Library Service

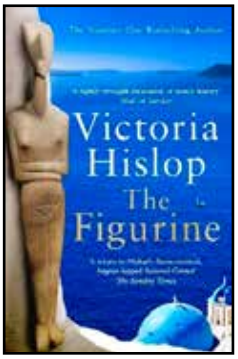
Every **third Thursday of the month**, the mobile library visits Packington. The library van arrives on High Street at **2.45pm** and stays there until **3.30pm**.

Packington Book Club

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

The next books are:
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman (25th September)

The Figurine by Victoria Hislop (30th October)



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

Board Games Are Back

26th September
10th and 24th October

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 Film Club

Film Club returned from its summer break on **Friday 13th September** with the film One Life, based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton.

Our film for **Friday 11th October** will be **Wicked Little Letters (15)**

A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a dark, absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, **Wicked Little Letters** follows two neighbours: deeply religious local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women, led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan) begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss and Rose might not be the culprit after all.

Warning: *severe profanities and cussing aplenty but modulated by the comic context in this film.*
A critics view: *"The range of insults sprinkled in with a healthy dose of f-bombs is truly awe-inspiring. The letters are spicy for the villagers, but for a modern-day audience, they're just delightfully silly. Unless you happen to be offended by foul language."*

As we move to **Friday 8th November** we will be showing **Back to Black (15)**

A celebration of the most iconic - and much missed - homegrown star of the 21st century, BACK TO BLACK tells the extraordinary tale of Amy Winehouse. Painting a vivid, vibrant picture of the Camden streets she called home and capturing the struggles of global fame, BACK TO BLACK honours Amy's artistry, wit and honesty, as well as trying to understand her demons. An unflinching look at the modern celebrity machine and a powerful tribute to a once-in-a-generation talent.

The tickets for all our films will remain at £5 for adults and £3 for children under 12, all inclusive of refreshments which are available prior to the start of the film. As usual, no pre-booking is needed, just turn up at the Memorial Hall. Please note our **doors will not open until 7pm** to allow us time to safely set up the hall. We look forward to seeing you all, both old and new patrons welcome.

Packington Film Club Committee
carolgraham1@aol.com

STOP PRESS

Bull & Lion Update

Marston's have informed us that a new landlord has been appointed. It is anticipated that the pub will re-open on the **8/9th October** under the new management.

Further details will be published as they become clear.

Stephen Plummer
Packington Post

Open Gardens

Continued from page 1

Of course, the gardens are the star attraction of the popular event and we are so grateful to all those who opened up and welcomed large numbers of visitors – we know that a great deal of hard work goes into preparing the gardens and so a very big "thank you" to you all.

Many people commented on how beautiful the church looked and we want to express our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals and organisations who decorated it with their lovely flower displays. Who knew we had such talent in our midst!

There were many others who contributed to the success of the day (too many to mention by name) but they included cake makers, stall-holders, car park attendants, all those who served teas, the leaders and members of the two choirs which performed, the village History Group, and of course, all those of you who came, enjoyed yourselves and spent some money - helping us to raise the magnificent overall sum of **£3,620.90** for our **Fabric Fund**.

And a final important "thank you" to David Granger Architectural Design Ltd for their expertise and generosity in designing and printing our publicity.

Anne Wathes 01530 414621

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309

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Registered Office: The Old Cottage Hospital, Leicester Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1DB
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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ProCon 2023
LEICESTERSHIRE PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION AWARDS 2023
Medium Residential Scheme Award WINNER

Packington Duck Race

Continued from page 1

Thankfully the weather was good and the wind although light, helped the ducks along in the slower sections of the course. Again, it was not until the shallow, faster flow of the rapids section that we had real excitement! It brought decisive movement and the more agile of the ducks fought their way to the front and all races ended with clear winners and little need for the photo finish.

The final race was the popular customised duck race. There were 23 entries and some owners had gone to some lengths and given a lot of thought to produce their racing ducks. The winning duck was christened by the commentator as 'Threebottleonduck' which took the first prize with relative ease.

Organisers would like to say, well done to all who took part and supported the event and a big thank you to all the Duck Stewards, Dean, Izzy, Mel, Simon, Zac, Claire, Debbie, Steve, Robert, David, and a special thanks to my daughter Rachael for sourcing the food and drinks and to Jody for letting us have power from her house.

Finally, it's not all about the money but we did make a profit on the event and the £261 made will go towards the maintenance and improvements to The Memorial Hall.

Chris Miles
Memorial Hall Chairman

Packington Social Evening

What is a village without its villagers?

The Great Packington Village Social was born with the idea to get people together and in doing so, raise money for village projects.

The first social was held in early July and was an amazing success, and, by the time you read this issue of the Packington Post, the next one on **Saturday 21st September** will be taking place. The social takes place in the Memorial Hall and the bar is open. We also put on a small quiz and the money raised from this is likely to go towards a disability swing for the recreation ground.

After September's event, the next social will be held on **Saturday 14th December** and will be a festive special.
Watch out for poster in the next month and most importantly thanks for your support.

Event organiser Antony Cash said:

"Having lived in the village for five years now, I have always found the villagers to be a friendly bunch and I saw a desire by villagers to meet others and just have a chat. Having run events for many years I decided the time was right to start a new night in the village's social calendar. We aim as we go forward to try and offer street food where possible and who knows, we may even get some special nights on."

Antony Cash
ministryofmaterials@icloud.com

Packington Horticultural Society

Continued from page 1

The show boasted another beautiful display of flowers and some spectacular vegetables as well as a few wonky ones! Perfectly baked Victoria sponges, chocolate cakes and flapjacks were all on offer, along with pickles, jams and various items of craftwork from adults and juniors alike. After the entries had been judged, visitors were welcomed back to see the excellent exhibits.

Pizzas from Biddulph's Pizzeria were enjoyed and drinks were flowing from the bar. Some lucky visitors scooped an array of raffle prizes, including a tour of the Leicester City Stadium, wine, chocolates and plants, as well as vouchers for Daybreak, Poochies of Packington and Hill Farm to name a few.

The event culminated in an exciting auction where visitors bid to win the various exhibits. As we have seen in previous years the bids are often raised when it comes to the winning Dundee cake and this year was no different as the final bid came in at £40!

This year the total amount of money awarded was **£1,550** and representatives from each local group or organisation were invited to receive their donations in person.

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

Mike Powell, chairman of Packington Horticultural Society (PHS) said: "I would like to thank everybody who exhibited, attended, viewed, bought raffle tickets and purchased one or more of the ninety plus exhibits in the amazing and ever popular auction of vegetables, cookery and craft that made the 81st Packington Village Show such a success. As a result of your generosity and interest we were able to make significant awards to seven village organisations as well as contributing to the continued financial stability of Rainbows children's hospice, the Air Ambulance and Bright Hope. Representatives of our sponsors were also there to see the awards made. We can't do the show or any of the other events we organise without you so we look forward to seeing you again soon."

This was Mike's last show as Chairman of the PHS and he will now hand over the reins to existing committee member, Laura Bryant.

A full list of winners and photos from the show will be published on the website in due course. To keep up to date with news about all PHS events follow us on **Facebook facebook.com/packingtonshow**

Amy Powell
contactus@thephs.co.uk
packington.wixsite.com/villageshow

Church Services

Sunday church services for September and October start at **10:00am** except for the Holy Rood Harvest Service* which will start at **10:30am** followed by a Ploughman's Lunch.

Holy Rood Church, Packington

22nd September Holy Communion
6th October Harvest Service*
13th October Morning Worship
27th October Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

15th September Holy Communion
6th October Harvest Service
20th October Holy Communion

St John's Church, Donisthorpe

29th September United Woodfield Team

Donisthorpe Church Transformed!

On **Sunday 1st September**, Bishop Saju, the Bishop of Loughborough, dedicated the newly refurbished building that is St John's, Donisthorpe, as part of our Woodfield Team of churches.

With all the pews removed, it is now light and airy and has been truly transformed. Toilets and a servery have been installed and tasteful modern furnishings provided. The church now offers a very versatile and welcoming space.

We have a united team service there on **Sunday 29th September** at **10.00am** providing a golden opportunity to visit and see what has been done.

Harvest Service – an "eco" focus

We are endeavouring to manage the land surrounding our church for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants) and involving the school in planting bulbs and monitoring bird feeders amongst other things.

We are also taking other steps to ensure that the church operates in as eco-friendly a way as possible and have already gained the bronze award from A Rocha UK, a branch of an international organization which engages communities in nature and conservation.

Our Harvest Service on **Sunday 6th October** will start at **10.30am**, a little later than usual, to accommodate the **Harvest Lunch** that will be served afterwards.

We have invited a speaker, **Jane Woolmer**, from the **Diocesan Environment Group**, who will share with us other steps which we might take to further improve our eco footprint.

The topic is of interest much further afield than just to church members and might inspire community initiatives, so do come along and hear what she has to say!

Harvest Festival

Holy Rood Church, Packington

Sunday 6th October 10:30am

With speaker Jane Woolmer

from the

Diocesan Environment Group

Donations of tins, packets and jars of food are being collected for the Marlene Reid Centre, Coalville.

Coffee is being served after the service and a Ploughman's Lunch from **12.30pm**

To book for the meal please phone **Anne 01530 414621** or **Lesley 01530 413309**

Come to the service, the lunch or both! Hope you can join us.

Come and See

A New Group For 11 – 14 Year Olds

Come along and join **Vernon** from **Ashby Youth for Christ** on **Thursday 3rd October 3.45pm – 5.00pm** at **Holy Rood Church**.

Plenty of games, fun and noise!

For more details, please contact:

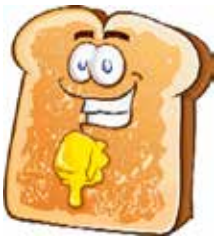
Anne Wathes 01530 414621

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309

Toastie Thursday

Holy Rood Church, Packington

Thursday 24th October 12noon – 2.00pm



Join us in church for

Cheese Toasties,

Toast & Spreads,

and Cake

Don't Be Bored on Toastie Thursday!

Come along, do crafts. junk modelling and have fun. Open to all ages!

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

Lights of Love

As we did last year, we shall be holding a Lights of Love Service in Holy Rood Church on **Saturday 2nd November 2024** at **3.00pm**.

This is a time to remember with thanksgiving those whom we love but who have now died and there will be an opportunity during the service to light a candle in their memory.

Those whom we know have lost loved ones in recent years will receive a personal invitation but the service is open to anyone who feels that it would be helpful to them, no matter when their loss occurred.

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309

Autumn Fayre and Coffee Morning

Our Autumn Fayre will return on **Saturday 26th October 10.00am – 12.30pm** in **Holy Rood Church** with a selection of gifts, cards, crafts and refreshments for you to enjoy.

Packington Post Appeal

Every two months, our regular contributors send us their news, updates, stories and community events, which we then put together to form the magazine you have in your hands right now.

The Packington Post is always happy to receive ideas, suggestions, news and articles from village residents, so whether it's a fundraising story you have, an achievement you'd like to share, a community event you've attended or you're running, or you've something you'd like to say about the village, we'd love to hear from you and include your articles and photographs in upcoming issues.

If you have a local or online business that you'd like to shout out about, or an upcoming event (that is not community/fundraising which are free to include) we have affordable advertising rates from as little as £20 with options to suit all needs so do get in touch.

Do you have a couple of spare hours every other month? We are looking for individuals to join the Packington Post team, so if you know your way around a Word document, are eagle-eyed with grammar, have ideas for articles you'd like to write, or could help out in any other way, please get in touch using the email below for more information.

Packington Post Team
editor@packington.info

Packington Primary School

School Governor Vacancy

There is a vacancy on Packington School Governing Body for a Foundation Governor i.e. one appointed by the church.

To be eligible, it is **NOT** necessary to be a regular churchgoer, although obviously it is essential to be sympathetic to the Christian faith, since one of the roles of such a governor is to support the Head Teacher in ensuring that there is a Christian ethos in the school.

It is undoubtedly a very rewarding job but does require some time commitment. Do give this opportunity some consideration and if you would like to know more about it then please contact me in the first instance and I will put you in touch with those who can best enable you to understand what would be involved. Thank you.

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309
lbwistle@googlemail.com

PACKINGTON C OF E OPEN AFTERNOON

TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER

15.45-17.30

Looking for a school place for your child in 2025?

Begin their educational journey with us and discover a nurturing environment dedicated to their growth and development.

Our school offers a warm, family-oriented atmosphere, set amidst outstanding grounds in the heart of the countryside, perfect for inspiring learning and personal growth.

Join us for a stay and play session where you and your child can experience what makes us unique. Alternatively, contact us to arrange a tour during school hours.

Packington CofE Primary School
01530 412425
www.packington.leics.sch.uk

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SOLICITORS

Lexcel

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

Coalville Office
21-25 London Road Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3JB
Tel: 01530 834466
Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
113-117 London Road
Leicester LE2 0RG
Tel: 0116 2551901
Fax: 0116 2555864

Melbourne Office
William's Yard
Derby Road, Melbourne
Derbyshire DE73 8JR
Tel: 01332 863810

www.craneandwalton.com

Post Contacts

Editor
Sharron Miller - 07902 466611
editor@packington.info

Treasurer
Chris Hammond - 415764

Editorial Team
Mike Coke - 560430
Adrian Mongredien - 564613
Helen Edgington - 07766 086580
Amy Powell - 07739 365205

Photography
Karn Turnbull - 07748 296315

Distribution
Martin Tidman - 412851

Website
Robert Dilworth - 411673
robert@packington.info

Email Alerts
Stephen Plummer - 412963
alerts@packington.info

Welcome Pack
Becky Taylor - 411027

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