Packington Post
www.packington.info

Jan 2026 issue no 136 £2.00 (Village residents free)

Current Events

POOCHIES OF PACKINGTON



Packington's own Café and Coffee Shop **"Poochies"** quietly closed on Sunday 28th December 2025 when Bev Smith (on Right in the photo) and assistant Lianne posed for this farewell picture

"After five wonderful years, we're sad to share that **Poochies of Packington will be closing permanently on Sunday 28th December 2025.**

We want to thank everyone who has supported us, laughed with us, shared stories with us, and become friends along the way.

A special thankyou to Pete, our landlord, for everything he's done. This has been a very hard decision, but we're ready to step into a new chapter in life. We're truly grateful for every customer who has been part of our journey. Thank you for all your love and support xx."

"Landlord Pete" - **Peter Swift** of the next-door super-store **Daybreak Services** - has told PCG that the future of the property is being considered, but there is unlikely to be any news in January 2026.

Bev- Now "Poochies" is closed are there any new adventures on the horizon?

In early 2026 I will be employed by the "Bull & Lion" serving breakfast rolls, paninis, freshly brewed coffee in the restaurant area of the pub. Opening 9.00am – 1.00pm. It will be a welcoming space for customers new. A place to enjoy and be a part of our lovely Packington community.

Big Breakfast - Saturday 7th March

The **BIG BREAKFAST** is coming to our village hall for one day only! This major village charity event is a big favourite, a highlight of the year.

Date: **Saturday 7th March 2026**
Times: **9.00am to 1.00pm**
(Last orders 12.45pm)

With proceeds again going to a deserving local charity, the prices and details are as follows:

Full breakfast with toast, tea or coffee, and orange juice: £10 for adults £5 for children
Bacon or Sausage cobs available to eat in or take away

Everyone is welcome, both to enjoy a breakfast and / or to mingle and chat as a volunteer - and if you would like to give an hour of your time on the day, please contact:
Debbie 07971 047283
Debbie.hamilton7@yahoo.com

Packington Parish Council

Flooding

A new flood warning gauge has been installed further upstream to help provide earlier alerts when flooding is likely. It will take around two and a half years to fully calibrate, as it needs to record several flooding events before it can operate at full effectiveness.

In the meantime, it's really important that residents continue to report any flooding, whether it's standing water, partially flooded roads, or more serious incidents.

At the January meeting, Councillor Michael Squires (Leicestershire County Council) encouraged residents and the Parish Council to contact him directly about flooding issues.

Michael.Squires@leics.gov.uk

Help with local flood prevention

Leicestershire County Council has launched a new initiative to help communities reduce flood risk and improve local resilience.

This includes:

- More frequent drain and culvert maintenance.
- Support for high-risk areas, including alternatives to sandbags (such as FloodSax).
- Grant funding for small-scale local projects to help prevent or reduce flooding, as well as funding for CCTV drainage investigations where ownership is unclear.

Parish and town councils can apply for this funding, and the Parish Council will be looking at whether there are opportunities for Packington to benefit. Applications must be submitted before **27th March 2026.**

If you have ideas, locations of concern, or would like to flag recurring flooding issues, please contact the Parish Clerk:
Victoria Webster, Parish Clerk
clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk

Planning Updates

Self-build home, land west of Ashby Road (Myche Croft Drive). This application has now been approved by North West Leicestershire District Council.

Residents and the Parish Council raised several concerns, including biodiversity protection and drainage arrangements. Planning officers have confirmed that:

- Biodiversity land remains protected under an existing legal agreement.
- Drainage will use a sealed tank until a connection to the main sewer is possible.
- The Parish Council has written to the District Council to better understand how local concerns were taken into account, particularly given Packington's conservation area.

No decision has been made by North West Leicestershire District Council on the current planning application for the erection of 9 dwellings and garaging at Century Drive. Similarly, the current planning application to demolish the existing agricultural building and the erection of 9 dwellings at Manor Farm off Vicarage Lane remains to be decided.

The Future of Planning Applications

Under the proposed new Unitary Authority, Parish Councils will still have a role to play in the planning process, despite the potential demise of District planning Officers. However, what shape or form future involvement of Parish Councils in the planning process is, is currently unknown and will depend upon Government policy. The Parish Council will distribute further information as and when we know.

Traffic Calming

The Traffic Calming Group recently met with senior County Highways officers and local councillors to move plans forward.
Work is now underway on developing a traffic-calming scheme for the village, including survey work and design development. Funding will be sought as each stage progresses.

£10,000 has already been set aside to support the project, with the potential for further funding. A draft scheme is expected in around six months, subject to approvals.

Neighbourhood Watch

Packington now has an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which has been registered nationally. Several residents have already joined, and stickers have been distributed for homes, bins, and vehicles. There is also a Packington Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group, open to anyone in the village.

A meeting will be held in February for existing members and anyone interested in finding out more.

Traveller Site

Over recent months, village residents have raised concerns about activity at the local traveller site. The Parish Council passed these concerns to the District Council's Enforcement Team and asked for them to be investigated.

Following an inspection, the District Council has confirmed that the site remains compliant with its original planning permission, just 12 pitches.

Some caravans currently parked outside the main fenced area are there temporarily while improvement works are carried out and are expected to return to the main site once completed.

The Parish Council would like to thank Ward Councillor Nigel Smith for keeping us informed throughout the investigation.

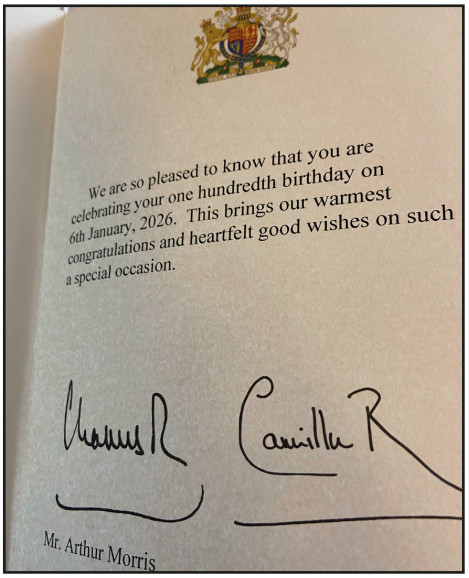
Victoria Webster, Parish Clerk
clerk@packingtonpc.org.uk
New website: packingtonparish.gov.uk

Village Centenarian

Arthur Morris of Packington has celebrated his one-hundredth birthday in January. He was proud to hold up his Congratulatory Card from HM King Charles III.







Packington Film Club

After an unfortunate start to the year - (cancelling our January film due to bad weather) - we now hope to show "The Ladykillers" in April, but we will begin the year of film showings in February.

Our first film for the new year is **"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"** which will be shown on **Friday 13th February**. Hopefully this will be as popular as the previous two films we have shown.



"It's the 1930s at Downton Abbey. When Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future."

As we move to **Friday 13th March**, our film showing is **"The Mountain between us"**

"Kate Winslet and Idris Elba star in this suspense drama about two strangers who become stranded on a remote, snow-covered mountain following a plane crash. Forced to trust each other to survive the extreme elements, they begin a perilous journey through hundreds of miles of wilderness, each discovering a strength they never knew possible."



This year "tickets" for all our films will remain at £5 for adults, inclusive of refreshments, which are available prior to the start of the film. Children (under 14) are free (for appropriate rated films). Just turn up at the door, no pre-booking needed!

Once again may we remind you that our **Doors will not open until 7pm** to allow us time to safely set up the hall. Film starts at 7:30pm.

Please join us in the Village Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you all, both old and new patrons. It really is a friendly, entertaining night out.

Packington Film Club Committee
carolgraham1@aol.com

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

Memorial Hall January 2026

A very happy new year to everyone from the memorial hall committee! Following some Christmas parties, there has been a quiet couple of months at the hall with our usual 2-week shut down for Christmas, this is not usually a time for bookings so gives the committee a well-earned break.

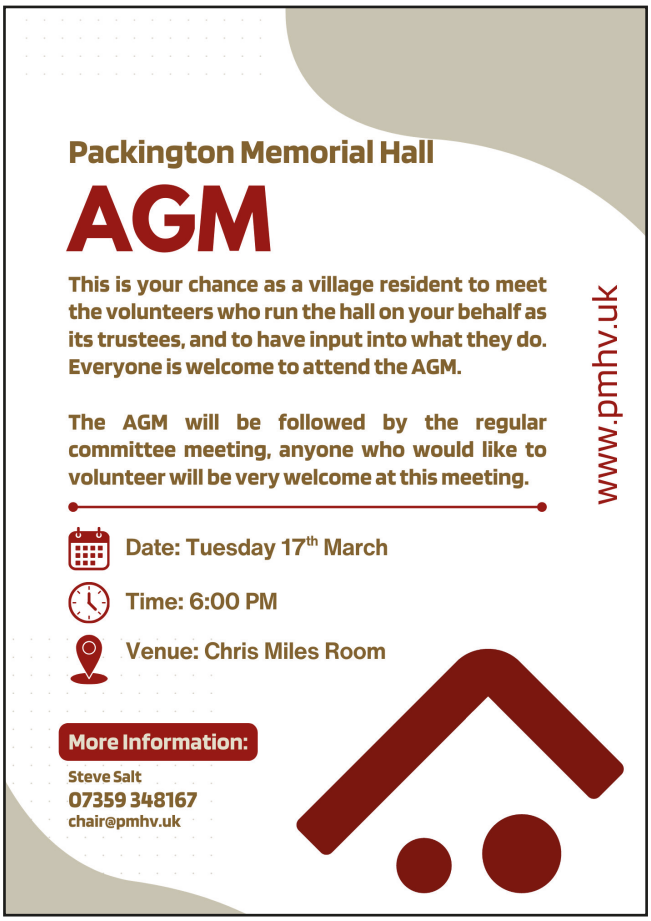
Early in December we had our festive lights installed and a very wet switch-on evening, where brave villagers battled through the heavy rain to see the lights switched on, have a warm drink and a mince pie.

We were also treated to some carols by the Packington Choir, who did an excellent job despite the weather, a big thank you to them!



You will have noticed that we have had some further maintenance done recently to replace the old wooden (and rotten in places) facia boards with new UPVC which will last for many years to come. Also, it's a whole year since we have had the solar panels installed, and in that time (up to January 13th 2026) we have generated 8.8MWh of power, enough to power 4,500 average UK homes for an hour, we have consumed roughly 50% of this ourselves with the rest exported to the grid.

We will be holding the Annual General Meeting for the hall on the 17th March at 6pm in the Chris Miles Room. This is your chance as a village resident to meet the volunteers who run the hall on your behalf as its trustees, and to have input into what they do; everyone is welcome to attend the AGM.



The hall cannot run without the support of its dedicated volunteers, if you would like to devote a little of your time to support this great village resource please do come along and see what we're all about.

Winter in Packington

This photo is a souvenir from midnight Thursday 8th January 2026 when storm Goretti dumped three inches of snow on our village amidst some heavy rain, Two days of icy conditions followed.



Packington Community Choir

Packington Community Choir had a packed church on 18th December for their annual Christmas concert, raising funds for both Holy Rood church and Macmillan nurses.



Packington Community Choir during our Christmas concert on 18th December 2025

The choir performed a full programme of festive songs and choral arrangements of both classical and popular pieces, alongside solos from local young musicians Eleanor Lewis and Summer Harrison.

Over £800 was raised, and much fun was had.

The choir rehearses on a Thursday 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Holy Rood church, and is always looking to welcome new members.

Aimée Harrison, Choir Leader
07967 316645
info@packingtoncommunitychoir.org

New Disabled Swing for Recreation Ground

Fundraising Success

A community fundraising campaign in Packington has successfully reached its target, raising more than £6,000 to purchase **a disabled swing for the village recreation ground.** The new equipment will provide inclusive play opportunities for children and families, ensuring the recreation ground can be enjoyed by everyone in the community.

The impressive total was raised through a series of well-supported village events, including popular Christmas parties and Easter bunny hunts held around the village. The fundraising effort also received generous backing from a range of local businesses, whose support played a vital role in helping the campaign achieve its goal.

All fundraising activities were led by the Packington Rotary Impact Group. Club President Sandra Evans praised the community spirit behind the project, saying: "The remit of the Impact Group is to organise events that bring the community together while raising funds for notable local causes. This project has been a perfect example of what can be achieved when residents, volunteers and local businesses all work together."

The new disabled swing is expected to be installed soon.

Karl Saunt
07905 439115
ksaunt@hotmail.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PRODUCE THE POST?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

INTERESTED?

Contact editor@packington.info

Welfare and Safety Partnership

Packington Parish Council proudly hosted the autumn Packington Welfare and Safety Partnership (PWSP) event at the village hall.

The evening brought together local action groups, residents, and representatives from key organisations to celebrate 18 months of progress and collaboration.

A Milestone in Community Safety

Since its launch, the PWSP has empowered village action groups to deliver meaningful improvements in welfare and safety. The event showcased their achievements and outlined plans for the future.

Camera Watch Team: Eyes on Safety

Karl Saunt and Antony Cash, with support from Councillor Russell Powell, shared exciting updates on the village's CCTV initiative.

A new contract with Tom Rooney of Measham CCTV has led to upgraded cameras already in place, with more to follow. The Police echoed the importance of this system in their own community efforts.



Traffic Calming Group: Slowing Down for Safety

Nicola Beanland presented the group's progress on a village-wide traffic calming scheme.

A revised plan has been submitted to Leicestershire County Council, with a meeting scheduled with their Director of Environment and Transportation. The group is now working with specialist consultants Edwards and Edwards to refine the proposal.

Tackling Flooding: FLOAT Ongoing Mission

Flooding remains one of Packington's most pressing challenges. Martin Tidman, representing FLOAT (Flood Action Team), reported encouraging developments.

With support from the Parish Council and MP Amanda Hack, the group is making strides toward long-term solutions. Amanda's representative, Callum Prince, was welcomed to the meeting reinforcing her commitment to the cause.

Neighbourhood Watch: A Call for Volunteers

Councillor Bryan Smith urged residents to join the Neighbourhood Watch. With signs of increased criminal activity, a vigilant and active community presence is vital.

Village History: A Glimpse into the Past

The History Group gave a brief but fascinating presentation on Packington's rich heritage, which likely stretches back over 1,000 years. Their contribution added depth and context to the evening, reminding us of the village's enduring legacy.

Defibrillator Demonstration

Following the presentations, Ben Bell, Gayle Fordbird, and Sonia Heard led a hands-on defibrillator demonstration.

Their practical guidance was well received and highlighted the importance of community preparedness and readiness in emergency situations.

Closing out with Q&As and thanks

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session, giving attendees the chance to engage directly with presenters and share ideas.

Special thanks were extended to Victoria Webster, Clerk of the Parish Council, for her invaluable support in organising the event and keeping everything running smoothly.

Chris Miles writes:

Most of the Post's readers who know me will know that I smashed my hip and the head of the femur falling from the lower steps onto a hard floor in our house.

I am now recovering well and not so reliant on my best friend the Zimmerman frame. However the pre Christmas period passed us by, although I did get home for Christmas Day itself.

Pauline and I were unable to deliver greeting cards and this was disappointing for us both.

However we hope 2026 is a good year for you and I am using the PPost as a medium to inform our many friends in the village that normal service is resuming next year.

Chris and Pauline

Packington Village History Group PVHG

Our photographic survey of Packington in 2025 is now available on our website. You can view it at pvhg.uk, following the link to Records, and then to Packington 2025. You may like to compare photos also of Packington 2019, when we first carried out a village photo survey.

Our thanks go to Robert Dilworth who suggested the project and collated the results, and to all the members of the group who contributed photos.

We will hold our **Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 27th January at 7.30pm in the Chris Miles Room at the Memorial Hall.** After the formal part of the meeting we will be planning our activities for the year. You will be very welcome to come along and join us!

Robin Boucher, PVHG Chair
01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Coffee Morning

Tea/Coffee and Homemade Cake

with a warm friendly Welcome!



Every 4Th Wednesday of the month

10am-12Noon

Books and Jigsaws to borrow or swap

Holy Rood Church

Toastie Thursday

Come along to Holy Rood Church, Packington

12noon - 2pm

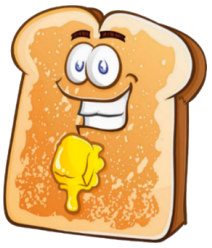
Thursday February 19th

Join us in our local Church for

Cheese Toasties,

Toast & Spreads

and Cake



Don't Be Bored on Toastie Thursday

Come along, meet friends, and try out our summer activities. Open for all ages!

For more info, please contact

Anne on **01530 414621**
or
Lesley on **01530 413309**

Packington Church Christingle Event





Our village church held their Christingle event in early December 2025 - A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in Advent services, made from a candle in an orange (representing the light and the world respectively) which is typically decorated with a red ribbon and sweets or dried fruit.

Packington Churchyard

Many of you will walk through the church yard regularly either visiting graves, dropping children off at school, walking the dog or just to enjoy the peace. Some will also know that as part of Eco Church, for which we have achieved the Bronze Award, the church yard grounds are managed to encourage wildflowers to flourish and provide habitat for wildlife.



The children from school are regular visitors. A group of Eco Warriors came in the Autumn and planted daffodils which are just appearing. Another of their jobs is to keep the bird feeders topped up! In better weather conditions they have spent time clearing some gravestones which were gradually becoming overgrown. A few adults have also cleared several on the North side and it's interesting to see the age of these. It would be a shame for them all to be lost.

Do keep an eye out for the spring flowers. Snowdrops are usually abundant but around David Halls bench we have violets, Bluebells and primroses. Going through the year Ox Eye Daises, Pig Nut, Good Friday Grass, Willow Herb, Ladies' Bedstraw and of course the very delicate Harebells are just to name a few.

If you would like to be involved in looking after this amazing green space do get in touch with either myself

Anne Wathes 07525 377860 or
Lesley Birtwhistle 01530 413309

Christmas at Packington

December is a busy but magical month in Packington with lots of festive activities and events.

Christingle

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

Pantomime

In the same week, we visited Loughborough Town Hall for our annual pantomime trip to see Cinderella. The children and adults all had a wonderful time and it was great to experience the pantomime all together as a school.

Tree Decoration Competition

Children had the option to purchase and decorate a Bauble or Wooden tree for our Christmas tree, which were then judged and prizes were given to the winners. We had some amazing, creative entries so well done to all involved & thank you to our PSA for arranging this event.

Nativity

Our EYFS & Key Stage 1 children worked very hard to practice for their performance of 'The Nativity'. 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 in front of some large audiences.



Winter Wonderland

Our wonderful Packington School Association (PSA) once again arranged a magical Winter Wonderland for our pupils. 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 are extremely grateful to our hard working PSA for pulling it all together.

Beyond the Bell

Our new before and after school club had their own fun with christmas baking sessions and their first christmas party. Thanks to Nicky & Lisa for providing these great opportunities for our pupils and also to the parents who provided sweet treats for the children.



Coming up

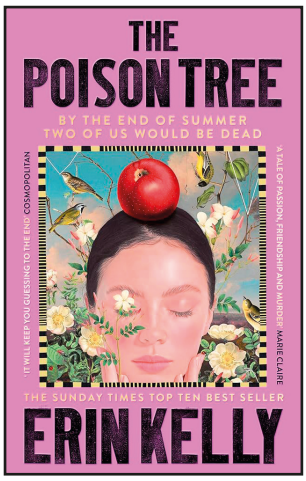
A group of our Key Stage 2 pupils have been busy rehearsing to attend a Young Voices concert at the BP Pulse Live arena in Birmingham to participate in a choir of up to 9000 voices! In February our Owls class will be spending 2 days at Beaumanor Hall, taking part in Archery & Climbing as part of their visit.

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

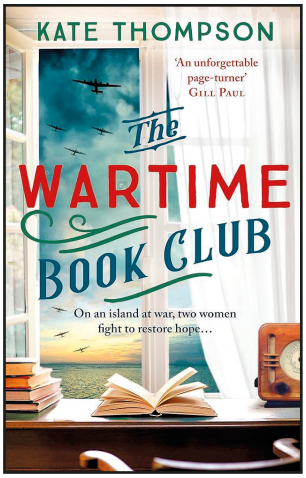
Packington Book Club

Packington Book Club meets on the **last Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm** in the **Chris Miles Room at the Memorial Hall.**

Just read the book then come along and join us, you will be made very welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.



On **24th February** we will be reading **The Poison Tree** by **Erin Kelly** – "an addictive, twisty psychological thriller"



And on **24th March** it's **The Wartime Book Club** by **Kate Thompson** – "a gripping and heart-warming new story of love, bravery and resistance in WW2, inspired by a true story."

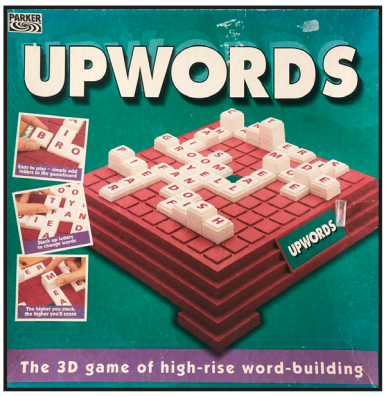
If you would like further information, please contact:

Helen Edgington
07766 086580,
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Board Games

If you enjoy board games but can never find anyone to play with, and would like to make some new friends, come along and join us in the **Chris Miles Room at the Memorial Hall.**

We meet on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of the month from **1.30pm – 3.30pm**. The next sessions are **12th and 26th February** and **12th and 26th March**.



We currently play Qwirkle, Rummikub, Mexican Train and UpWords, amongst others. If you have a game without too many rules (maybe you had one for Christmas) that you'd like to share, we love to find new ones to add to the repertoire.



We break for tea, coffee and biscuits and there is lots of fun and chat. And all this for the very small charge of £2.00. Everyone is welcome – no booking necessary – just come along.

For further information please contact:

Helen Edgington
07766 086580,
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Thank you for your donations!

Falcon Support Services received a number of donations last Autumn from our village. Michelle Rock, of the Moss Solicitors in Loughborough. wanted to thank us all in Packington for our help:

"Thank you to the village of Packington for all your donations – we are extremely appreciative of those that have donated jumpers, trousers, coats and sleeping bags to individuals that need them this winter.

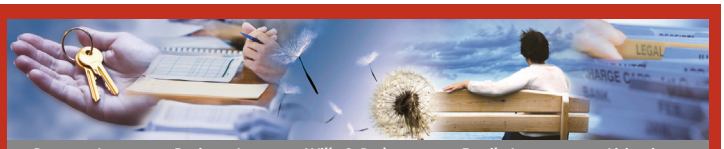
Falcon Support Services is a Loughborough-based charity dedicated to helping vulnerable people overcome homelessness and social exclusion.

They provide safe accommodation, outreach programmes, and practical support for individuals in need across Leicestershire. Falcon Support Services operates several projects, including supported housing, crisis intervention, and wellbeing initiatives designed to help people regain independence and stability.

Moss Solicitors, Loughborough, is proud to support Falcon Support Services with donations to help vulnerable people across Leicestershire. The firm's contribution aids the charity's work providing housing, guidance, and support, reflecting Moss Solicitors' commitment to giving back to the local community.

The firm continues to champion local causes and encourage others within the business community to support the charities that make Leicestershire a stronger, more compassionate place to live.

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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

Treasurer
Chris Hammond - 415764

Photography
Karn Turnbull - 07748 296315

Web & Media Support
Robert Dilworth - 411673
robert@packington.info

Email Alerts
Stephen Plummer - 412963
alerts@packington.info

Online Events Calendar
Louise Gratton - 07793 008906
events@packington.info

Committee Members
Adrian Mongredien - 564613
Sandra Evans - 07818556357
Steve Flook - 07768852363

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