Packington Post
www.packington.info

Mar 2026 issue no 137 £2.00 (Village residents free)

Big Breakfast & 90yr Cake

Big Breakfast Saturday 7th March

Organiser, Debbie Hamilton, writes: "Another fantastic Big Charity Breakfast, with everyone coming together - for a delicious breakfast, and time to sit and talk with friends and strangers alike.

All the volunteers did an amazing job whether it was making tea, washing up, cleaning tables, cooking in the kitchen, all fantastic. I really want to thank each and every volunteer because without them the big breakfast would not be so successful.



Thank you to everyone that supported us and all the raffle ticket sales, as I witnessed lots of happy adults and children alike.

The kitchen served a fantastic **180 breakfasts** including takeaways; we have an interim **turnover figure of around £2,300** which will reduce after the pending food bill.

Thank you again to everyone that supported the day, and all the positive reactions to the hall - and how lucky we are to have such a great facility on our village. Looking forward to seeing everyone again next year."

Village Resident now 90

Packington Post congratulates our former editor **Mike Coke** on reaching his 90th birthday in February. Mike is shown below together with wife Sylvia at the recent 2026 Big Breakfast.



Yes there was CAKE back in February! A small group of neighbours enjoyed helping to decimate this artistic cake:



Packington Parish Council

Solar Grant Fund

Did you know? - The Parish Council administers a **Community Benefit Fund** which receives income from 2 solar farms in the Parish – the Park Farm Solar Farm and the Ashby Solar Farm.

The fund can be used by the Community Body for charitable, educational, environmental, amenity or other appropriate purposes within the Community Body Area that will promote a vibrant and active local community. The intention is to improve the range of local services and activities and for grant funding to have a positive effect on the community of Packington.

Application forms can be obtained from emailing the Clerk **clerk@packingtonparish.gov.uk** or you can download one from the Parish Council website.

New Email Addresses and Parish Council Website Address

The Councillors and Clerk have new email addresses! Please ensure you use these for any future correspondence.

Cllr Keith Goodwin
cllrgoodwin@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Bob Martin
cllrmartin@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Miles
cllrmiles@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Fleetham
cllrfleetham@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Russell Powell
cllrpowell@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Bryan Smith
cllrsmith@packingtonparish.gov.uk

Victoria Webster
clerk@packingtonparish.gov.uk

The new Parish Council website address is
www.packingtonparish.gov.uk

Flooding

Councillors recently met with Councillor Michael Squires from LCC who is very keen to help the village with their continued flooding issues. They took a walk around the village and discussed different options as to how Cllr Squires, alongside LCC might be able to help Packington. Packington's Flood Action Team FLOAT will be putting together an up to date package of information, data and photos of village flooding which will be sent to various contacts.

The Parish Council are also trying to secure a further meeting with the Environment Agency to continue discussions.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Just to say.....
If you would like to join those already in the Packington Neighbourhood Watch 2025, please email **Councillor Bryan Smith cllrsmith@packingtonparish.gov.uk**

Tree Preservation Orders TPOs

It is coming to that time of year where we start to go out into our gardens once again and have a tidy-up ready for Spring. But did you know there are certain laws when it comes to trimming/felling trees? Trees can be protected in three ways: protection by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), protection by virtue of being located within a Conservation Area and protection by virtue of condition(s) being attached to an earlier planning permission relating to the site.

For full information on this please visit: **nwleics.gov.uk/pages/works_to_trees_and_hedgerows**

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a key local authority, acting as the closest level of government to the community. Parish councils take on responsibilities in three main areas: representing the local community, delivering essential services, and working to improve the quality of life in the parish. This can include anything from addressing concerns and gathering feedback to acting on local issues that are important to residents.

Parish councils deal with a wide range of matters, such as planning applications (where they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, supporting local groups, and managing community spaces like parks and playgrounds. They are often the first point of contact for residents when there are concerns or ideas, making them a vital part of local governance.

What does a Parish Council do?

Although parish councils have limited direct decision-making powers, they play a crucial role in negotiating with and influencing larger organisations, such as unitary councils, health authorities, and the police. Their ability to represent the community's views ensures they are a key voice in local matters, and their input is given serious consideration by those who make the final decisions.

Parish councils have a wide range of responsibilities related to local services, including the management of community buildings, open spaces, allotments, street lighting, bus shelters and cemeteries. They also have the authority to raise funds through the precept, which is their portion of the council tax. This precept is collected by the unitary council and helps fund the council's services and projects aimed at improving the community.

The Chairman

The Parish Chairman plays a vital role in leading the council and representing it at formal meetings and community events. They ensure that meetings run smoothly and inclusively, adhering to the agenda while giving all councillors the opportunity to contribute. Their leadership helps build trust between the council and the public, fostering collaboration and transparency.

The Chairman's ability to navigate discussions and resolve conflicts is essential for effective governance.

The Councillors

A Parish Councillor's primary responsibility is to make decisions that represent the interests of all residents within the parish, not just their own opinions. Councillors must remain impartial and ensure that their choices reflect the community's diverse perspectives. To do this effectively, they are expected to stay well-informed about local issues and actively listen to the views and needs of various groups in the parish.

This approach helps ensure that decisions are fair and considerate of everyone in the community.

The Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer of the council, tasked with carrying out legal responsibilities and ensuring that the council's decisions are implemented. The clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer, accountable for managing financial records and overseeing the council's budget.

A key role is to provide advice to the council and help in forming policies that guide the council's activities. They ensure that councillors have all the necessary information to make informed decisions and implement these decisions effectively.

Why Become a Parish Councillor?

Becoming a parish councillor offers a fantastic opportunity to positively influence your community. While you might picture councillors as older individuals meeting occasionally in a chilly village hall, they play a crucial role when significant events arise.

Residents often turn to their parish council for support and guidance, and by stepping into this role, you become a trusted leader with the power to shape decisions that benefit everyone.

Keith Goodwin, Chairman, Parish Council

Great Packington Easter Egg Hunt

Spring is in the air, which means it's time for one of the village's most egg-citing traditions! The Ashby Impact Satellite Group is delighted to invite everyone to **The Great Packington Easter Egg Hunt** taking place on **Monday 6th April from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**.



Families, friends, and neighbours are all welcome to join the fun. The hunt begins at **Holy Rood Church**, where participants can **collect their maps and start searching from 2.00pm**. Follow the clues, explore the village, and see how many eggs you can spot along the way!

Entry is **£1 for children and £2 for adults**, and there will be a **prize for the person who guesses the closest number of eggs hidden around the village**.

After working up an appetite on the hunt, why not stop by **Holy Rood Church**, where there will be a selection of **homemade cakes and refreshments available to purchase**. It's the perfect opportunity to warm up with a drink, enjoy a sweet treat, and catch up with friends and neighbours while the children compare their egg-hunting skills.

This is a wonderful chance to get outside, enjoy the spring weather, and spend time together as a community. Whether you're a seasoned egg hunter or just coming along for the fun, everyone is welcome.

Please remember to bring cash on the day for both the egg hunt entry and the refreshments, as this helps keep things simple and moving quickly at the start point.

We hope to see lots of smiling faces and eager egg hunters there — bring your friends and your Easter spirit!

Village Planters - Help Needed

Could you please help ? We all want to keep our village entrances looking attractive with the Planters on our entry roads - like this:



It's a simple gardening task, but it's now beyond the previous elderly volunteer. **YOUR help is needed.**

Please contact Councillor
Bob Martin
01530 413030

Party in the Park



Race for Life - Timms Family - June 2026 for Cancer Research

We are racing for Janet Timms and daughter Jayne. In October 2024 our beloved Gran, a force of nature, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and secondary breast cancer, she sadly lost her battle and passed away on Valentine's day in 2025 surrounded by all of us: her team.

Less than a year later our Mum/Auntie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is the strongest women we know and is having surgery and treatment this year. She will win her battle.

Please support by donating to cancer research for Janet Timms - use the QR code for our fundraising page.

THANK YOU!

MayDay Dance-Out at Bull & Lion 1st May 6.30pm

See you there?



Were you in Packington in 1971?



This photo of horse called Stormy was taken in 1971 - the lady riding is the penfriend of Sharon Maxim, who at that time lived in London. Do YOU perhaps remember the horse, and the lady who rode? Because Sharon would love to reconnect with her old pen friend now she lives not far away in Coalville.

Please make email contact direct **Sharon sharondavison@btinternet.com**

Packington Film Club

Film club will be showing some great films over the next few months.

We start on **Friday 10th April** with **"The Ladykillers"**, the film we were due to show in January which had to be cancelled because of the snow. This is the 1955 version starring Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers, and also includes Frankie Howard, Herbert Lom and Jack Warner.



"Five oddball criminals planning a bank robbery rent rooms on a cul-de-sac from an octogenarian widow under the pretext that they are classical musicians"

On **Friday 8th May** we will be showing **"The Choral"** a British historical comedy-drama, written by Alan Bennett and starring Ralph Fiennes.



"A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army."

Our last film before the summer break will be **"Roofman"** on **Friday 12th June**, more details to follow in the next issue.

Advance Notice:

On **Saturday 22nd August** at 3.00pm we plan to show a **free film for children**. Watch this space for more details in the next issue.

Entrance charge for all our films is £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 7.00pm** 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

What's in a name?

Packington Village History Group PVHG have investigated our village name. The study of place-names can give us clues about the origins of settlements. **Packington is an example**, being generally agreed as suggesting Anglo-Saxon origin. The last syllable "ton" (at earlier times "tun") indicates a modest-sized settlement ("ham" suggests something smaller, while "dun" indicates a hill and "burh" a fortified place). The first two syllables imply a leader and his followers, so it has been suggested that someone with a name like Pacca was accompanied by a group of invaders ("Packingas").

Place-names of this shape are familiar in the local area – a traveller heading north-east from Tamworth could pass through or near Amington, Shuttington and Seckington while Lullington is not far away and Worthington a little further to the north.

Looking back to the time of Anglo-Saxon invasions, it is possible to imagine groups entering the local area, around or soon after the year 500, sailing up the River Trent and perhaps the Tame, then branching out overland and choosing a site to settle.

A Roman road is believed to have run through parts of modern-day Packington, coming from the Trent at Sawley and proceeding across to Watling Street near Mancetter; could it be that Pacca and his followers disembarked at Sawley, decided to follow the road, came to a relatively sheltered spot with a brook running nearby and decided that this looked like a promising place to settle?

This is pure speculation; what we can be sure of is that the second and third syllables of the village's name, "ington," are shared with many settlements across large parts of England, while the first syllable "Pack" is more distinctive. It is not unique – we know of two other settlements with the same name, one in the adjacent part of Staffordshire and one in North Warwickshire.

Could Pacca have been busy enough to found all three? Or might the name have been shared by several leaders in those times? There is plenty of scope to exercise the imagination here!

Other local place-names indicate incursions by the Vikings, referred to more commonly as Danes in this area, who are known to have raided and then settled locally from the 860's. Names ending in "thorpe" (Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe, Osgathorpe) and "by" (Appleby, Blackfordby, Smisby and of course Ashby) are examples. The mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Danish names suggests a complex make-up of the population with different ethnic groups living close by one another by the late ninth century.

Until new material emerges, we cannot be certain about the story of local settlements over the centuries before the year 1000.

However, in order for Leofric, Earl of Mercia, to endow his abbey with Packington in 1043, there must have been a settlement of some sort in place by that date. It remains possible that there had been one for several hundred years. If, as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle testifies, Seckington was recognisable in the year 757 as the place where King Aethelbald of Mercia was murdered, might Packington also have existed in some form by then?

Robin Boucher, PVHG Chair
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

DG DAVID GRANGER
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN LTD



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

Upcoming Church Services

Holy Rood Church Packington

Sunday 29th March 10.00am - Woodfield Team United Holy Communion at Packington
Good Friday 3rd April 6.30pm
Way of the Cross
Easter Sunday 5th April 10.00am
Family Holy Communion
Sunday 12th April 10.00am Morning Worship
Wednesday 15th April 10.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 19th April 10.00am Breakfast Church
Sunday 26th April 10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 3rd May 10.00am Breakfast Church
Sunday 10th May 10.00am
Morning Worship followed by Church AGM.
Wednesday 20th May 10.00am
BCP Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 24th May 10.00am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 7.00pm
Holy Communion
Sunday 26th April 10.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 3rd May 10.00am Morning Worship
Sunday 17th May 10.00am Holy Communion

Please note our Easter Season services, to which all are welcome, and also some changes to the normal pattern of services because of the Easter Festival.

A new venture at Normanton-le-Heath

Having a longstanding and well-deserved reputation for friendliness, the folk at Normanton Church are now giving everyone a new opportunity to experience this! On the first Thursday of the month, and therefore **on the 2nd April and the 7th May, between 10.00am and 11.30am**, they are opening their doors for "Coffee 'n' Toast" and offering toast, a drink and a warm welcome – and plenty of chat of course. Do pop in!

Normanton would also be delighted to see you at their **family friendly Bingo** in the Church – a fun evening with cheese & wine **Friday 24th April 7.00pm to 9.00pm**

Coffee Morning

Tea/Coffee and Homemade Cake with a warm friendly Welcome!

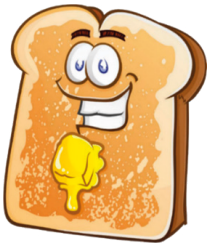


Every 4Th Wednesday of the month

10am-12Noon

Toastie Thursday

Join us at Holy Rood Church, Packington on Thursday 2nd April Noon - 2.00pm.



All ages welcome – you don't need a child!

Are you finding it hard to keep the children happy in the holidays?

Let them come and have fun with different Easter Crafts, Egg Hunt and Activities.



Whilst you? You can relax! Chat with friends! Enjoy a scrumptious toastie, or toast with a spread of your choice, and then indulge in some delicious cake.

For more info please contact **Anne 01530 414621 or Lesley 01530 413309**

News from the School – March 2026

Young Voices

A group of our pupils attended the Young Voices concert at Resorts World Birmingham in January, where they sang and danced along with a choir of up to 9000 school children. The atmosphere in the arena was amazing and the children, staff and families attending all had a wonderful and memorable experience. We look forward to attending again in 2027!



North West Leicestershire Cross Country Success



During Autumn & Spring, a group of our pupils took part in the NWL Cross Country League held at Moira and Sir John Moore Primary Schools. We had some amazing results with one of our pupils being invited to the Presentation evening to receive their silver medal! Two boys were also invited to represent North West Leicestershire County at the end of February.

World Book Day

We all had a great time dressing up for World Book Day in school on Thursday 5th March. There were some fantastic, imaginative costumes and it was great to see everyone's favourite books come to life! A big 'Well Done' to our costume prize winners from each year group.

Fire Service Visit

Our Year 1 & 2 class recently enjoyed a visit from the Ashby team of Leicestershire Fire Service, to support their topic on 'The Great Fire of London'. After an interesting talk in class, they all had the opportunity to go and sit in the fire engine and man the water hose. The fire fighters even played the siren as they left! It was a very exciting morning for the class.



Beaumanor Hall



Before February half term, our Year 3 & 4 class visited Beaumanor Hall for a 2 day, 1 night residential. All of the children had a great time and Mrs Dyche commented on how amazingly well behaved they all were. Despite the miserable weather, they all engaged well in the planned activities including climbing, archery and hide & seek in the cellars!

Coming up:

Later in March we will be raising money for Comic Relief.

In April we have plenty of Easter activities planned including our traditional Easter Egg Hunt, arranged by our PSA, and our annual Easter service in Church.

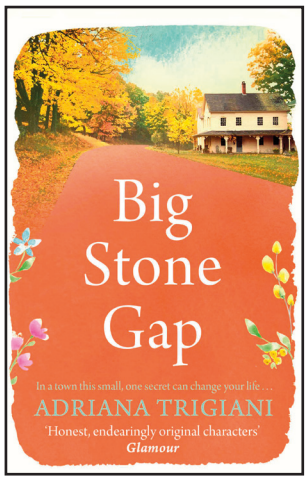
Packington School 01530 412425
office@packington.leics.sch.uk

Packington Book Club

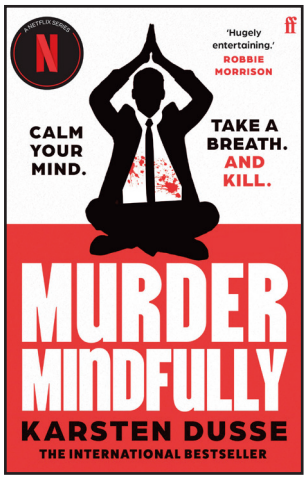
Packington Book Club meets on the **last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm** in the **Chris Miles Room at the Memorial Hall.**

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

On **29th April** we will be reading **Big Stone Gap** by **Adriana Trigiani** – "How do you face the future when the past won't let you go?"



And on **27th May** it's **Murder Mindfully** by **Karsten Dusse** – "the darkly comic internationally bestselling thriller"



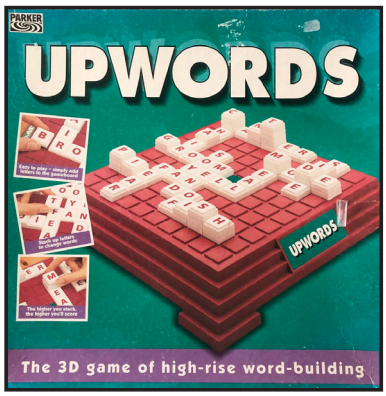
If you would like further information, please contact:

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 dates are **26th March, 9th April** and **23rd April**. We then take a break from May until September.



We currently play Qwirkle, Rummikub, **Mexican Train**, Splendor and **UpWords**, amongst others. If you have a game that you'd like to share, we love to find new ones to add to the repertoire.



There is a break for tea, coffee and biscuits and with 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

Handmade, Homegrown & Local – April Spring Fair Returns to Packington

Packington Horticultural Society (PHS) is delighted to welcome visitors back to its much-loved **Spring Fair** at the **Memorial Hall**, on **Sunday 26th April**.

Open from **10.00am to 1.00pm**, this friendly community event offers a relaxed morning of browsing and socialising, with complimentary tea and coffee available for all.



Visitors can enjoy a lovely selection of local craft, gift and artisan food stalls. It's the perfect opportunity to pick up something special while supporting local makers and small businesses.



There will also be a raffle with fantastic prizes generously donated by each of our stallholders. All proceeds will go towards the PHS charity fund, helping to support community projects in and around the village.



Gardeners will find plenty of inspiration at the popular PHS plant stall, featuring a wide range of plants along with helpful advice - especially for those thinking of entering the Annual Village Show in September.

Have any surplus plants, seeds, or cuttings you'd be happy to donate? Then please bring them along for the plant stall to help fellow gardening enthusiasts get growing this season.

Everyone is warmly welcome, whether you are a regular supporter or coming along for the first time. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information about this and other upcoming PHS events, visit our Facebook page at **www.facebook.com/packingtonshow** or search **'Packington Village Show'**.

Amy Powell
amyl_powell@yahoo.com

Open Gardens Day - 31st August 2026

Yes, it is that time again! Not for the event itself of course, but certainly time to start preparing, because a lot of work does go into all the arrangements which have to be made beforehand. As you probably know, on **Bank Holiday Monday 1.00pm-6.00pm** we regularly make a very good sum of money for the Church Fabric Fund. For this we are very grateful, especially in view of some pretty huge repair/restoration bills which we shall be facing in the next few months.

However, the afternoon is very far from just being a fund-raising exercise – as well as being a delight for garden lovers and a very pleasurable afternoon for all visitors, the feedback which we often receive from a variety of helpers, including those who are generous enough to open their gardens, is that the whole experience has been very enjoyable. And, because so many people from the village are involved in one way or another, it is also a real community affair.

You will no doubt guess that we are very much open to all offers of help but, in particular, at this stage, our greatest need is **to hear from anyone who would be willing to open their garden on the day.** Without gardens we clearly cannot proceed and it would be wonderful if we could identify sufficient volunteers early in the year – that has the advantage that it gives the "host" plenty of time to prepare and it also relieves our stress enormously! Your garden does not have to be perfect – just a work in progress.

If you can offer your garden or would like to help in any other way then please contact **Anne Wathes 01530 414621/07525 377860 anne.wathes@live.co.uk** or **Lesley Birtwistle 01530 4123308 07779 122797 lbwistle@googlemail.com** Thank you!

P.S. We have changed the opening times slightly this year – the hours will now be from 1.00pm until 6.00pm.

Post Contacts

Treasurer
Chris Hammond - 415764

Photography
Karn Turnbull - 07748 296315

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

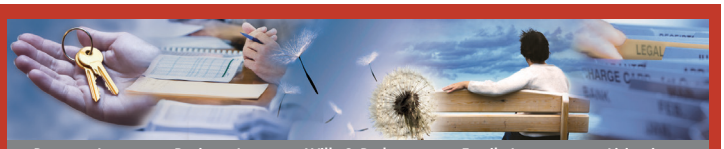
Email Alerts
Stephen Plummer - 412963
alerts@packington.info

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

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

Distribution Coordinator
Vacant - Apply Now

Looking for the right advice?



Property Law Business Law Wills & Probate Family Law Litigation

Choose Crane and Walton for everything legal...

We provide quality services in a friendly yet professional way on a range of legal matters, including:

- Property Law and Conveyancing
- Litigation
- Court of Protection Applications
- Family Law
- Wills and Probate
- Business Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Trusts

Family Law

CRANE AND WALTON LLP

SOLICITORS

Lexcel Practice Management Standard Law Society Accredited

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

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.

PRINTED BY CONTEXT 01530 411337