Packington Post
www.packington.info

May 2026 issue no 138 £2.00 (Village residents free)

Pipeline Fun & New Play Swing

Gallows Lane Closure 5th to 15th May 2026

Severn Trent Water closed the Gallows Lane road from the 5-ways junction Garden Centre to allow installation of their new huge pipeline carrying sewage and waste water direct to the River Tame to avoid efflux into the River Mease.



Getting to Champneys Springs proved challenging, routing through Measham and out on the normally quiet Leicester Road but where many residents' vehicles are parked on one side, requiring single-lane working without traffic control.



See the letter from Severn Trent Water on page 4.

New Secure Swing Seat

On Saturday 28th March 2026 at exactly one minute before the 4pm scheduled cutting of the tape, a bitterly cold heavy shower of rain blew down on those assembled to formally open the new accessible multifunctional & disability swing in our Recreation Ground. Undaunted, the chosen few huddled together as the blue tape was cut and the first ride took place.



This new facility is a welcome edition to our play area, and was paid for by the Ashby Rotary Impact Group to our Recreation Ground Charity - which was formerly the Robert Breedon Charity.

For 63 years now this charity, whose trustees are our Parish Councillors, has been responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Recreation Ground.



Next Edition: Copy by 14th July,
Out Friday 24th July 2026
editor@packington.info

Packington Life is Good

"We truly couldn't have chosen a better place to call home."

Simon and Nicola Cunningham write:

When Nicola and I first moved to Packington, we hoped we'd find a place that felt like home. What we didn't expect was to discover something even more meaningful; a true sense of community that has shaped our lives in ways we will always be grateful for.

Before settling here, our lives were very different. We had been living in Riyadh, where I was working with the Saudi Royal Court, leading their G20 presidency, a period that coincided with COVID and brought enormous challenges. More recently, I supported strategic communications as the country continued to open up to the world. Nicola worked for the British Ambassador, managing his household staff and Embassy events. Having stepped away from that chapter, we now feel incredibly fortunate to be retired and enjoying life in such a peaceful and beautiful setting.

We made the move to Packington to be closer to Nicola's parents. Her father is bravely living with stage 4 cancer and being nearby has allowed us to support and care for him. That was the most important reason for coming here. Sadly, not long after we arrived, we lost Nicola's wonderful mum, Pat, which was a very difficult time for us both.

In response, Nicola took on the extraordinary challenge of running the London Marathon. Training through the winter with real determination, she raised £10,000 for a local cancer charity in gratitude for the care her mother received, a remarkable achievement and one that means a great deal to us both. What we couldn't have anticipated, however, was just how much the village itself and the people within it would support us. From the moment we moved in to Winterberry Cottage on Spring Lane, we were welcomed with warmth, kindness and genuine friendliness. Neighbours quickly became familiar faces and, before long, friends. There is something truly special about a place where people take the time to stop, chat and care and Packington has that in abundance.

Life here has a rhythm that feels both peaceful and full. Whether walking our Springer Spaniel, Alfie, through the surrounding countryside or chatting with fellow dog walkers along the way, there is always a friendly smile or conversation waiting. Surrounded by beautiful farmland, the village feels deeply connected to the land, something we have come to truly appreciate.



The village itself is full of character. The local shop is a real gem, somehow stocked with everything you might need, and Pete, who runs it, is at the heart of it all. His friendliness and dedication make every visit a pleasure.

We are also fortunate to have a village pub serving an excellent pint of Guinness and from everything we've seen and heard, a fantastic school that plays a vital role in village life. There always seems to be something happening in the village hall and recreation area: events, activities and opportunities to come together.

One of the things that makes Packington so special is its sense of tradition and shared spaces. Holy Rood Church is a wonderful part of village life, and I've recently volunteered to help Ivan, the warden, maintain the lawns, something I'm genuinely pleased to be involved in.

It is, above all, the people who make this village. We have had the pleasure of getting to know many wonderful characters, including Tim, the local mushroom farmer, who has built an incredibly successful business on the outskirts of the village and is simply a joy to know, full of stories, humour, and warmth.

We would also like to thank those who showed us such kindness from the very beginning. Paul and Helen, (“the Tarmacs” to us) have been great fun, incredibly supportive and generous. Our neighbours Virge and Steph have also been wonderful; Virge even took me on a shoot over the winter and showed me the ropes, something I greatly appreciated as a former City boy.

Keith and Sandy, who are passionate about breeding world class Welsh mountain ponies, have been nothing but kind and welcoming. Antony and Sophie are always ready to lend a hand, not just to us, but to the whole village. We are truly grateful to them all.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Parish Council. Their work is voluntary, often unseen and undoubtedly thankless, yet absolutely vital. Having attended a meeting myself, I’ve seen first hand the time, care and thought that goes into everything they do.

Nicola has done an incredible job over the past four years transforming our house, refining every detail and creating beautiful gardens that we enjoy every day. It has been a true labour of love and has made settling here even more special.

We’ve also enjoyed spending time in nearby Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with its fantastic places to eat and relax. Birds Bakery has become a firm favourite. I still can’t get over the quality of their sandwiches and cakes and we’ve also grown very fond of spots like Lil Bo’s and Cattows Farm.

Our favourite restaurant, however, has to be San Giovanni’s in Sheepy Parva. We’ve shared many wonderful evenings there with village friends and visiting guests.

As a keen classic car collector, our move has been perfect. Summer brings shows and gatherings across nearby villages, including the much-loved Lullington Classic Car Show and events at Moira Furnace. Even our local pub hosts a monthly event during the summer, which is a great way to connect with fellow enthusiasts. I’ve also been fortunate to find an excellent local classic car specialist in Sheepy Magna, Ed Watson & Co, who have looked after my cars superbly.



Nicola has embraced village life in her own way too, joining Ashby Tennis Club, where she has made wonderful friends. In particular, Liz, Gary, Neil and Lucy have become very close to us. Nicola loves the club, especially her coach, Toby, and now makes a point of playing wherever we travel around the world.

One of our greatest joys is having our six grandchildren come to stay. They love their time here running around the garden, exploring the countryside and enjoying everything the area has to offer. Trips to Twycross Zoo and Conkers are always highlights. Seeing the village through their eyes makes it even more special.

Over the past few years, Packington has become far more than just where we live. It is where we have felt supported during difficult times, where we have built lasting friendships and where we have found genuine happiness.

To everyone in the village, whether you’ve stopped for a chat, offered a kind word, or simply shared a smile……. thank you. Your warmth has made a lasting difference to us.

We truly couldn’t have chosen a better place to call home.

Simon and Nicola Cunningham

Letter from Severn Trent Water

Packington Community Drop-In: Thank You for Joining Us

Severn Trent would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended our recent community drop-in event at the Village Hall on Tuesday 21th April. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout, with the hall busy throughout the session.

Many of you came along to find out more about the **River Mease Improvement Project**, and we really appreciate the time you took to speak with our team, ask questions, and share your views.

As part of this important environmental scheme, we're working to help bring the River Mease - designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation - into what is known as 'favourable condition'. To support this, we will be redirecting treated water from our Measham and Packington treatment works via a new pipeline to the River Tame near Elford.



Alongside this, both treatment works are being upgraded to further reduce phosphate and nitrate levels, helping to protect and improve the local environment.

Construction work is now underway, with activity taking place off Measham Road and across Gallows Lane. We understand that this work may cause some disruption, and we're very grateful for your patience while it is carried out.

Helen, the Severn Trent Community Comms Officer said "We'd also like to apologise for the quality of the recent letter.

Due to the permit being approved at short notice, the information provided—particularly the map—didn't reflect the level of clarity we aim to deliver.

We're taking this feedback on board and are committed to improving our communications moving forward."



For the latest updates on the project, please visit **www.stwater.co.uk/planned-improvements** or scan the QR code included below.

Thank you once again for your continued support and understanding as we deliver this

Helen
Severn Trent Community
Communications Officer 07703 718436

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Email: admin@davidgrangerdesign.com
www.davidgrangerdesign.com

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

Party in the Park

Due to popular demand, Packington Party in the Park is back and set to return on **Saturday 4th July 2026** at Packington Recreation Ground. Running **from 2.30pm to 10.30pm**, this much loved community event promises a relaxed summer day for all ages.



The afternoon will be filled with easy going family fun, including games, a children's entertainer, and a bouncy slide. It is the perfect chance to catch up with friends and neighbours while enjoying a picnic in the sunshine. Guests are encouraged to bring their own gazebo, chairs, tables, food and drinks to make the most of the day. BBQs are also permitted as long as they are raised off the ground.

As evening arrives, the atmosphere shifts with live music, a disco, and dancing, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

This year's football theme celebrates the 2026 FIFA World Cup taking place across the USA, Mexico and Canada, adding a playful twist to the day. There will be prizes for the best decorated gazebo or outfit, so expect plenty of creativity and colour inspired by teams, players and World Cup spirit from around the globe. There will also be special appearances from local emergency services.

The event is free to attend, with donations welcome. No need to buy tickets or reserve a spot, just turn up on the day. We look forward to seeing you there.



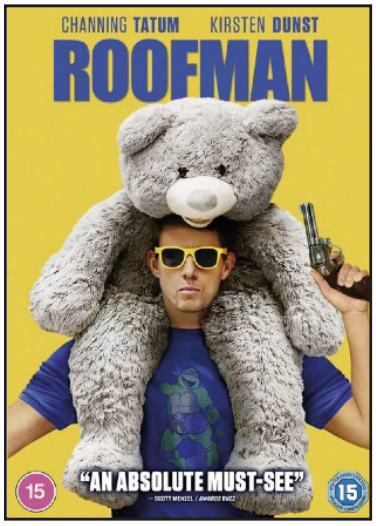
For any enquiries please contact Suz on **07738 294974**

Karl Saunt 07905 439 115
ksaunt@hotmail.com

Packington Film Club

Our last film before the summer break will be **"Roofman"** on **12th June**, (Certificate 15).

Based on an unbelievable true story, Roofman follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), an Army veteran and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for six months, surviving undetected while planning his next move. But when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), a divorced mom drawn to his undeniable charm, his double life begins to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in.



As usual, the 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! 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.

Film club takes a short break during July and August and will return with our Friday night films on 11th September. Have a good summer everyone.

Meanwhile - on Saturday 22 August at 3pm we plan to show Zootropolis 2, a free film for children. This will be suitable for all children up to 12.



All children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Look out for the posters around the village for more details.

Packington Film Club Committee (carolgraham1@aol.com)

Community Choir Concert



Thursday 2nd July 7.30pm at Holy Rood Church, Packington

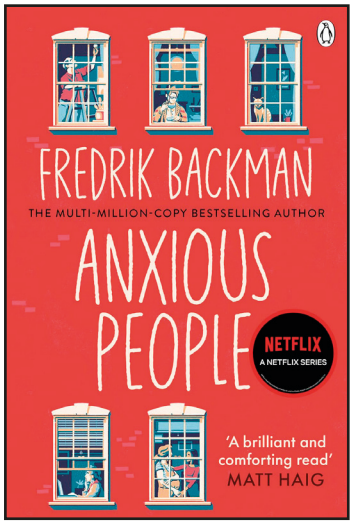
Join us for an informal concert of songs and performances, followed by refreshments.

Donations on the door & raffle to help raise funds for the church renovations.

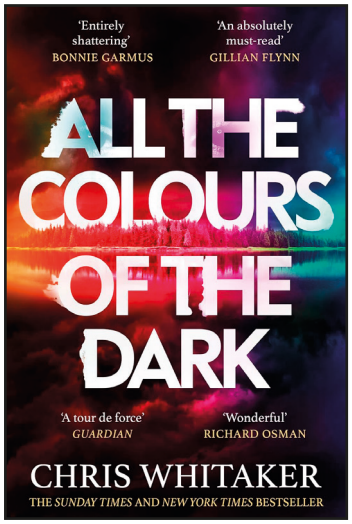
Aimée Harrison - Choir Leader
07967 316645

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 June** we will be reading **Anxious People** by **Fredrik Bachman** – *"The funny, touching and unpredictable No. 1 New York Times bestseller, now a major Netflix TV series"*



And on **29th July** it's **All the Colours of the Dark** by **Chris Whitaker** – *"Two childhood best friends. Torn apart by tragedy. Reunited by their search for the truth.*
Even if finding it means losing each other forever..."

If you would like further information, please contact **Helen Edgington: 07766 086580**
helenmedgington@gmail.com

Board Game Club

Board Game Club is on its summer holidays. It will be returning in September for more fun and games.

Mobile Library Schedule



The brilliant mobile library service comes every 3 weeks - next on **Thursday 6th June.**

Your Mobile Library Service
Mobile C - Route 4 - Thursday

The Mobile Library Service now visits on a three-weekly basis

Packington	High Street	14.45	15.30

14th May	17th September
4th June	8th October
25th June	29th October
16th July	19th November
6th August	10th December
27th August	

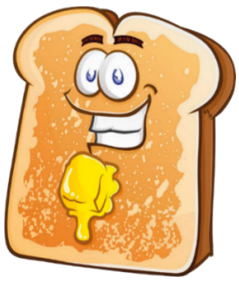
Leicestershire County Council
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/mobilelibrary
0116 305 3565



Toastie Thursdays

Holy Rood Church, Packington
12noon - 2pm

Thursday 28th May & 23rd July



Join us in our local Church for …

Cheese Toasties - Toast & Spreads

- Cake

Don't Be Bored on Toastie Thursday

A lovely time for children, accompanied with an adult, to make a range of crafts, ice cakes and generally have fun! If you have no children but would like to pop in for lunch you would be very welcome!

For more info please contact

Anne 01530 414621
Lesley 01530 413309

Coffee Mornings

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



Every 4Th Wednesday of the month (27 May, 24 June) : 10am-12Noon
Books and Jigsaws borrow or swap
Holy Rood Church, Packington

CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES

Every house in Packington should have recently received a **Christian Aid Envelope** inviting donations for this year's collection. As this is a 'deliver only' scheme, the envelopes can be returned to one of the addresses below:

20 Ashby Road
13 Babelake Street
2 Century Drive
8 Hall Lane
5 or 17 Homecroft Drive
2a Mill Street
11 Nethercroft Drive
4 or 33 Normanton Rd
23 The Grange
11 Bridge Street
4 Heather Lane

If anyone would like their envelope collected, please get in touch with me.

Thank you,

Doreen Gasson
13, Babelake Street, Packington
07891 858283 or 01530 412012
gasson123@btinternet.com

News from the School – May 2026

National Memorial Arboretum NMA Trip

Our junior pupils visited the NMA in April for a special 'Earth Day.' Activities included a hands-on craft/exploratory workshop with Wild Earth Movement, a site tour looking at the NMA's environmental impact and a bug hotel making workshop. Staff at the Arboretum were impressed with the knowledge, behaviour and respect shown by our pupils around the site, commenting that the ECO knowledge of our pupils matched and sometimes surpassed those of the staff who work there!



Mini London Marathon

On Saturday 25th April, a small group of Packington children took part in the 2026 TCS Mini London Marathon. This was an amazing & memorable experience, finished by crossing the iconic London Marathon finish line! All children had a momentous day in the sunshine and received a medal for completing either the 1 mile or 2.6km run.



Well done to all involved!

Tennis Winners!

We recently sent 2 groups of pupils to take part in Tennis events organised by the North West Leicestershire School Sports Partnership. One group worked on learning new skills and completed various training stations whilst the other group competed in a selection of matches.

Our competitive group won their group stage so progressed to the final a week later. They won this also so are now off to represent North West Leicestershire in the County Final in June. We are super proud of both groups for their efforts in this sport.

May Queen

On Friday 1st May our May Queen, Sienna, was crowned at the Bull & Lion. This was followed by a parade around the pub car park. Sienna will reprise her role at our school May celebration on Friday 22nd May.

We are inviting our families in for a lovely afternoon filled with Maypole & polka dancing, our PSA's popular Rainbow Raffle and a selection of stalls and games created by our hard-working Year 5 & 6 children.

David Attenborough Day

To celebrate David Attenborough's 100th birthday, we all dressed up as animals, explorers, scientists and historians for the day. There were some wonderful, imaginative costumes.



The children learned about his work with wildlife and the natural world, and how he encourages us to care for our planet.

Coming up

We have a very busy June coming up with Sports Day, Ashby Science Fair, Saffron Lane Athletics and our Key Stage 2 Summer Shows plus lots more.

Packington Village History Group

Life here nearly a thousand years ago

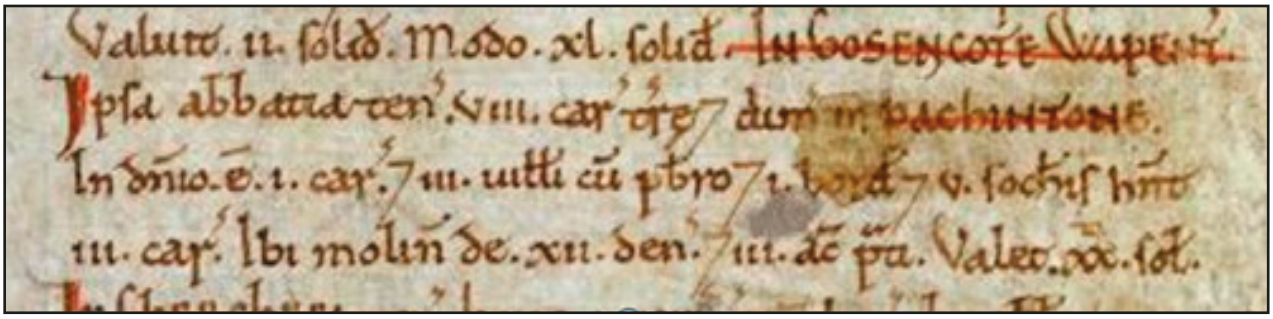
Packington's known history begins in the eleventh century. In 1043 Leofric, Earl of Mercia, gave the village to an abbey which he and his wife were founding in Coventry.

The Domesday Book, in 1086, gives a brief picture of Packington forty years later. Domesday Book says that the abbey held eight and a half carucates of land here (a carucate being the amount of land one team of oxen could plough in a season).

probably an initiative by the abbey after the endowment.

Domesday Book also records a priest in Packington, so there may have been a wooden church. (The earliest parts of the present-day Holy Rood Church were not built until around 1200). The revival of monastic life back in the mid-900's had encouraged the education of men to serve as local priests: Packington's priest might have been the one person in the village who could read and write, at least to some extent.

Priests who were not members of the monastic order were permitted to marry and many did.



Extract from that page of the actual Domesday Book made in 1086, R column - the full page is copyrighted, but you can look it up yourself oneline at The National Archives at reference E 31/2/2/10367

The routine cycle of the farming year - ploughing, sowing, tending, harvesting - would have been familiar to the villagers. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us that winters in the 1040's could be hostile; in 1042, for example, we learn that "In many and various ways this was a most disastrous year; the weather was severe and the crops suffered; during this same year more cattle died than anyone remembered before, either by reason of diseases of various kinds or because of the inclement weather."

It is believed that barley was one of the main crops grown, with wheat, oats and rye also being present. Barley would be used to make bread, but also for brewing ale; the original Anglo-Saxon settlers and their later Viking neighbours may have shared an interest in the latter! Ploughs were in general use and Domesday Book notes four in Packington. Crops would be ground using a stone hand grinder called a quern. By the year 1000 some local landlords were building mills on their land – the technology of water mills had been known to the Anglo-Saxons for some time. Domesday Book records a mill here in the 1080's;

The largest group of villagers according to the Domesday record were five sokemen. Sokemen enjoyed rights concerning their land and a status which places them as a kind of labour aristocracy by contrast with the others listed, three villans and one bordar. All would probably have been required to provide services and contributions in kind to the abbey. Coins had been in use in Mercia since at least since the time of Offa's silver pennies in the late 700's. From the reign of Aethelred (978-1016) taxes were high across England, to fund tributes to Danish invaders and to fund a fleet of ships – they were gradually eased during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-66).

The abbey's holding of Packington continued for almost 500 years, ending in 1539 at a time when many far-reaching changes were under way across England.

Robin Boucher, PVHG Chair
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Upcoming Church Services

Holy Rood, Packington

Sunday 24th May (Pentecost) 10.00am
Holy Communion (HC)

Sunday 31st May 10.00am Woodfield Team United HC at St John's Donisthorpe

Sunday, 7th June 10.00am
Breakfast Church

Sunday 14th June 10.00am
Morning Worship with Baptism

Wednesday 17th June 10.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 28th June 10.00am
Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July 10.00am
Breakfast Church

Sunday 12th July 10.00am
Morning Worship

Wednesday 15th July 10.00am
BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 19th July 4.00pm
Songs of Praise followed by refreshments

Sunday 26th July 10.00am
Holy Communion

Holy Trinity, Normanton-le-Heath

Sunday 7th June 10.00am
Morning Worship

Sunday 21st June 10.00am
Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July 10.00am
Morning Worship

Sunday 19th July 10.00am
Holy Communion

HELP NEEDED FOR OPEN GARDENS MORE INFO OPPOSITE

Open Gardens

Open Gardens Day – HELP NEEDED!

Bank Holiday Monday– 31st August 2026 1.00pm to 6.00pm.

We are most grateful that our event is, once again, being sponsored by David Granger Architectural Design Ltd. It promises to be a great afternoon. As well as the opportunity to visit some amazing gardens and enjoy some delicious refreshments, there will be an "I-spy" type game for the children, a display by the Packington Village History Group, an exhibition of art by the Country Colours Art Group (with a chance to buy!) and our own Community Choir singing in one garden.



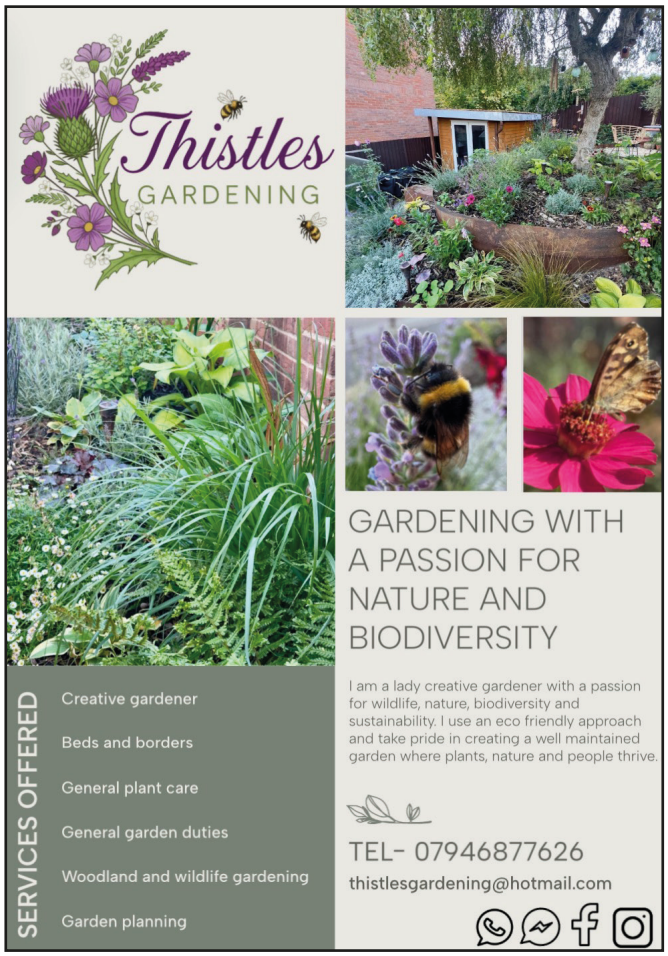
However, we need your help to make all that promise come true – which, sadly, it will not if we do not have sufficient gardens available for people to visit.

Which is where YOU come in! We need to secure offers for at least a couple more gardens to be open that afternoon – could that be you? **PLEASE** do give serious consideration as to whether it could indeed be **you** who offers this year.

Thank you very much! Contact details below

Anne Wathes
01530 414621 / 07525 377860
anne.wathes@live.co.uk

Lesley Birtwistle
01530 4123308 / 07779 122797
lbwistle@googlemail.com



PACKINGTON COMMUNITY AWARD 2026

PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL have created this Award to recognise and publicly thank people, either an individual or a group, who have worked to improve the parish.

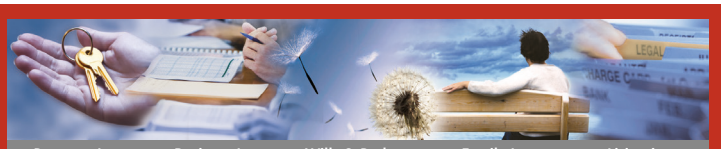
Closing date for nominations

5th June 2026

https://packingtonparish.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Community-Award-Leaflet-2026.pdf

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Fax: 01530 810886

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