Packington Post
www.packington.info

July 2026 issue no 139 £2.00 (Village residents free)

Nook Cafe & Party in the Park



The Nook Café is now open on **5 days a week, Wednesday through Sunday**, 9.00am to mid afternoon. It is also intended to have a monthly pop-up Pizza evening like the one done for the recent Party in the Park.



Seen above: new proprietor Mellissa "Mell" Elliker with (on Left) her grand-daughter Amber and (on Right) daughter Grace who, with husband Mark, are part of Mell's team.

"I worked for Daybreak, and helped at Poochies, and realised that Packington is a very community-based village. My family and I hope to now become part of the Packington Community by offering a warm comfortable place, good food, friendly service, where all are welcome and that adds to village life."

Party In The Park - PiP 2026

We hope everyone has recovered from a fantastic Party in the Park event on Saturday 4th July 2026. Many thanks to the great organisers , the generous donations of time, equipment and money and thanks to everyone who attended!







Community Award

Four nominations from 6 village residents were received and our selection committee unanimously agreed the 2026 award should go to Packington's long-serving **School Crossing Officer John Burton**, who is to retire in the Autumn.
After starting his career as a miner, then



moving on to work in various warehouse roles, John saw a "lollipop man" whilst out road running and decided that this looked like a job he would enjoy. John has never regretted his career change and for 15 years has enjoyed cycling to Packington School every morning and afternoon, to keep the children and adults safe.
The above photo shows John Burton, our



Packington School crossing patrol officer being presented with the **Community Award** by the Chairman of the Parish Council **Keith Goodwin**,on Tuesday 7th July 2026.

Farewell to Councillor Bryan Smith

Councillor **Bryan Smith** has stepped down from his role with the Parish Council. We are grateful for the time, energy, and commitment Bryan gave to our parish, especially all his work towards flooding, the Neighbourhood Watch and the recreation ground charity. We wish him well for the future.

The Parish Council are therefore looking for a new Councillor. Please see the posters on the village notice boards or the Parish Council website for further information.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council have submitted **objection comments** in relation to planning applications:
25/01581/FUL West of Ashby Rd. On the basis of the development being outside the defined limits to development, highway safety, character and good design, previous planning decisions and ecology.
26/00543/PIP Next to 30 Ashby Rd. The principal concern relates to the significant intensification of development proposed on this site when compared to the previously approved outline application 24/00850/OUT. The earlier approval related to the erection of a single self-build dwellinghouse only. The current proposal seeks permission in principle for five dwellings, representing a substantial increase in both scale and likely vehicle movements.
25/01587/FUL North East of Coleorton Lane. Based primarily on unresolved highway safety concerns and inadequate visibility at the site access, which were central reasons for refusal of the previous planning application 05/00164/FUL.

Midlands Rural Housing Survey

Following a detailed review of the Housing Needs Survey, the Parish submitted a comprehensive response to NWLDC raising a number of concerns about the methodology, assumptions and interpretation of the findings.

The estimated local housing need has now been revised from the original assessment of **33 homes** down to **9 homes**. The Parish Council has welcomed this significant revision whilst continuing to seek clarification over how and when those nine homes are expected to be required.

Victoria Webster Parish Clerk
07345 982530 clerk@packington.gov.uk

Packington Traffic Calming Group

Packington Traffic Calming Group PTCG have been a little quiet over recent months as we have been waiting to hear back from Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and the traffic consultants Edwards & Edwards (E&E) following our October 2025 meeting at LCC.

You may recall that PTCG previously put forward traffic calming suggestions of road narrowings for the four main roads entering the village. However, during the meeting at LCC in October, the Director of Environment & Transport for LCC, Ann Carruthers, and her colleagues advised that 'asphalt tables would be more preferrable.



https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-management-schemes/traffic-calming

A meeting between PTCG members, our Parish Councillor Paul Fleetham, and E&E was held at the beginning of June to determine next steps. E&E will now carry out a site visit to determine the suitability of asphalt tables and possible locations.

We are still in the early stages of potential solutions for traffic calming in the village. Residents will have the opportunity to view and comment on future proposals at a public consultation which will take place prior to any plans being submitted to LCC.

For any comments or suggestions regarding the above, or help with funding, please do not hesitate to contact:

PTCG Secretary – Nicola Beanland
nicolabeanland37@gmail.com

Classic Car Meet

A wonderful evening was enjoyed at the **Bull & Lion** on Monday 6th July, as classic car and motorcycle enthusiasts gathered for our regular first Monday of the month meet.

With glorious summer weather and a warm welcome from the Bull & Lion's **Jason and his team**, the event brought together a fantastic collection of vehicles from Packington and the surrounding villages.



Among the standout cars were a stunning **Aston Martin DB7 Volante** and a beautifully presented **1950s Austin-Healey 100**, both attracting plenty of admiration. The evening was as much about the people as the cars, with enthusiasts sharing stories, experiences and a common passion for classic motoring in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

You don't need to own a classic vehicle to enjoy the evening, Our next meeting is from **6.00pm** on **Monday 3rd August**.

Simon Cunningham
simonlcunningham@hotmail.com

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

Packington Film Club

On **Saturday 22nd August at 3.00pm** 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 they need to be accompanied by an adult.



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

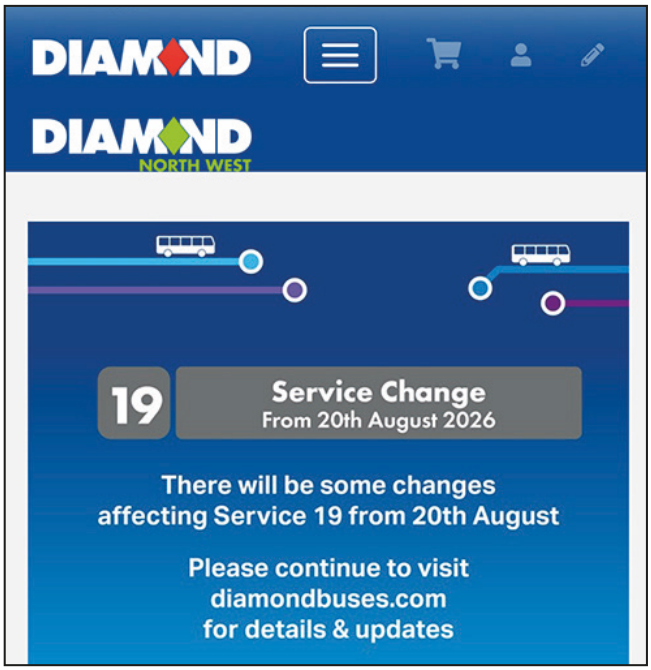
Packington Film Club Committee
carolgraham1@aol.com

Lount Recycling Tip Closure

Lount Recycling and Household Waste site RHWS closed for three weeks on **Friday 17th July to Friday 7th August**, to enable the installation of a new Rehome Zone - a dedicated area where residents can leave **reusable items in good condition** that they no longer need.

During this, **Coalville RHWS** will be open **seven days a week**.

Village Bus Service [19] at Risk



We may be losing our No 19 bus service. They are talking about cancelling it from 20th August 2026 - keep in touch at **diamondbuses.com**

Like to Start Bridge?

Ashby Bridge Club will be starting their new 12 week **Bridge Beginners Course** on Tuesday 22nd September with a taster session on Tuesday 15th September. Each session will run from 9.45am until 12.15pm with the final session being held on Tuesday 8th December 2026.



The total cost of the course including the teaching manual and membership of Ashby Bridge Club will be £90. Venue: **Ashby Leisure Centre & Lido**, North Street, Ashby, LE65 1HU

For further information please contact
Robert Killip 07865 398468
robkil@sky.com

Memorial Hall

There have been some changes to the **Memorial Hall committee** since the last Packington Post update. Our booking secretary of 6 years, **Louise Gratton**, took the decision to step down following the AGM in March. I'd like to say **a big thank you to Louise** for all the hard work she has put into the hall as booking secretary, and for the many other things she has done for us over the years. I would also like to welcome **Lynne Munro** to the committee who is taking over as **booking secretary** (**bookings@pmhv.uk**) from this month onwards. Thank you Lynne for volunteering for this important position on the committee. **Bryan Smith** has also decided to step down from the committee, upon which he has served the hall looking after all aspects of health and safety for the last few years, thank you for all your hard work Bryan, and all the best for the future.

We still have some openings on the committee, we are always happy to welcome new volunteers to play a part, even a small one, in the ongoing running of the hall. **We would particularly like a volunteer to be our meeting secretary**, someone who would be willing to prepare the agenda for the monthly meetings, take notes and issue minutes. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please do get in touch with me or another member of the committee.

We are hoping to hold our annual event, the now legendary **Duck Race, on Monday 31st August**. Tickets will be on sale from 5.00pm onwards with the first race at 6.00pm. A highlight of the event is the customised duck race so it's a great opportunity to be as creative as possible and bring your own duck along - there is a prize for the most creative or amusing duck.

Everyone is welcome so please bring all your friends and relatives to cheer on your favourite rubber duckies. This will be highly dependent upon the weather, if it continues to be so sunny and dry there is a risk that there will not be enough water in the brook to have an exciting race, so please keep an eye on the Packington Post Alerts and Facebook as we get closer to the date.

Shortly after this, in early September, we will once again be hosting the **Packington Horticultural Show**, exhibiting the best flowers, produce, and crafts that villagers have to offer.

Please also note that the **Kate Smerdon Room will be closed from the 3rd – 9th August for decoration**. During this time there will be no classes held in the main room, however the Chris Miles Room remains unaffected.

For information on facilities, classes and events at the hall, to check availability or make a venue booking please look at our website, **www.pmhv.uk**

Dr Steve Salt - Memorial Hall Chair
07359 348167 chair@pmhv.uk

Packington Annual Duck Race
Monday 31st August – Mill Street



You are invited to the annual Packington Duck Race so bring your friends and relatives and enjoy this great event.

There are **three races**, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, as well as the **Customised duck race** with a prize for the most creative or amusing duck!

Tickets for each race can be purchased price £1 for each duck on the evening. This is a CASH ONLY event. Our Ticket Sales desk, on lower Mill Street adjacent to Little Lane opens from 5.00pm for the 6.00pm first race.

Contact **Steve Salt** for info as above

The run up to Summer has been very busy with lots of **activities and trips**, including Sports Day, Saffron Lane Athletics, trips to The Warning Zone & Tamworth Castle, a Science Fair, Water & Road Safety sessions, new starter transition and class swap days, Key Stage 2 Summer show and a Leavers' trip to Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Warning Zone



Our Year 6 children visited the Warning Zone in Leicester. The Warning Zone combines vital messages on personal safety and online safety through stimulating experiences which help to prepare children for increased independence and their transition into early adolescence. This is done through a series of scenes set up by the Police, Fire Brigade, Electricity Board etc and the children respond appropriately.

Sports Day & Saffron Lane

Early in June, we all had a great Sports Day morning and the rain stayed away for us.



We again used Ivanhoe College sports leaders to help run our events.

All of the children showed great team spirit.

Huge thanks to our Packington School Association PSA for organising refreshments and to Mr Emery for organising and setting up the event.

Later in the month a selection of our Key Stage pupils represented Packington school at the **area athletics** held at Saffron Lane. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to our parents/carers who helped out on the day. Special mention to **Ruby, Freddie & Rupert who won medals** in their events.

Science Fair

All of our pupils in Years 3 to 6 were tasked with creating a Science project for our Science Fair. The theme was "Curiosity – What's Your Question'.' and the children came up with some creative and interesting presentations. Our families were invited in to experience the fair, and a team of judges selected 4 pupils to represent us at the Ashby School Science Fair. The children had a fantastic time at Ashby School and Artur & Freya came away with 1st & 3rd place which is a fantastic achievement.



Tamworth Castle



Our Year 1 & 2 pupils visited T**amworth Castle** as part of their topic work on Castles. They had a fantastic day and staff were so proud of all of the children. Castle staff commented that they were some of the best behaved children who had visited and they showed brilliant knowledge throughout the visit. We were especially impressed by the thoughtful questions they asked and the respect they showed to the staff, members of the public and the castle itself.

KS2 Show



Our pupils in Years 3 to 6 put on two amazing performances of '**GrossBusters: A Monster Musical**' for parents and families. The children worked really hard in rehearsals and performed fantastically. Huge congratulations to all the children who took part as well as the adults who made it possible! Thank you to all of our families for coming along to watch and support the children's hard work.

Year 6 Leavers Visit to Rosliston



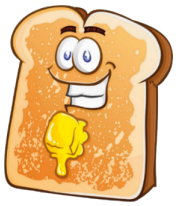
We recently took our Year 6 pupils to **Rosliston Forestry Centre** to celebrate the end of their time at Packington. They had a fun morning 'Shelter Building' and even had pictures taken for ITV! The afternoon was spent enjoying all that Rosliston has to offer, topped off with an ice cream treat!

New Starters / Transition

Our new pupils who will start in Reception at the end of August have now completed 2 induction visits, and we look forward to welcoming them fully in the new academic year. Our existing pupils took part in a class swap day ready for the new year and our Year 6 pupils went off to their chosen High Schools for transition days.

Toastie Thursdays

Come along to Holy Rood Church noon-2pm **Thursday 30th July & Thursday 13th August**



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!

Happy Retirement Mr Emery!

Rob Emery started teaching at Packington School in 2009 and after 17 years he has decided it is time to retire.

During his time at Packington School, Mr Emery has worked with current headteacher Mrs Burton and her predecessor Mrs Price, along with many other members of staff, and seen hundreds of children pass through his care. He has predominantly taught Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) and has thoroughly enjoyed his time teaching at Packington School.



Mr Emery originally worked as a self-employed dental technician but decided to retrain as a teacher to have a career that his 3 (now grown up) children would be proud of, with one of his children also now a teacher. After initially teaching at a large school in Ilkeston, Rob decided that he would prefer to work in a smaller school, and preferably one in Leicestershire so that his school holidays would be the same as his children's!

When asked what he was most proud of during his teaching career, Mr Emery, laughingly said "surviving". More seriously, it has been seeing children progress and grow every year, with every day being different and the children's honesty and enthusiasm helping to keep him young and continuing to enjoy his chosen career.

Last year, Mr Emery became a grandad so part of his time is now spent with his wife looking after their grandchild. Now that he is retired, Rob can spend more time walking and cycling, and may start playing tennis. There is also the opportunity to visit some of the many places which he has been teaching the children about over the last 17 years! In addition, Rob and his wife are already planning a trip to see relatives in Australia, and he wants to walk each of the 50 peaks in the Peak District, ideally ticking one off every week.

At the end of term leavers assembly, Mr Emery said of his time at Packington School: "It's been a blast" and he "Loved every minute".

This teacher is clearly not slowing down any time soon and will be making good use of his time now that he no longer has the constraints of working. Happy retirement Mr Emery!

Loretta Kirk Editorial Team PCG

Coffee Morning



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

Join us in our lovely village Church on the 4th Wednesday of every month (26th August or 24th September) from 10am-12 Noon.

Books & Jigsaws to borrow or swap

Holy Rood Church, Packington.

Donations accepted towards upkeep of the Church

For more info please contact

Anne 01530 414621
Lesley 01530 413309

Upcoming Church Services

Holy Rood Church, Packington

Sun 26th July 10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 2nd Aug 10.00am Breakfast Church
Sun 9th Aug 10.00am Morning Worship
Wed 19th Aug 10.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)
Sun 23rd Aug 10.00am Holy Communion and Baptism
Sun 30th Aug 10.00am
Woodfield Team United Holy Communion at ***St Laurence church, Measham***
Sun 6th Sept 10.00am Breakfast Church
Sun 13th Sept 10.00am Morning Worship
Wed 16th Sept 10.00am BCP Holy Communion (said)
Sun 27th Sept 10.00am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

Sun 2nd Aug 10.00am Morning Worship
Sun 16th Aug 10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 20th Sept 10.00am Holy Communion

OPEN GARDENS DAY – MONDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2026 1.00pm - 6.00pm

A big "Thank you" to all who have responded to our cries for help! We are delighted to say that we now have 10 volunteers who will open their gardens on the day. Please note that we start and finish an hour earlier this year - the Church bells will ring to start us off, there will be much to explore.

We are grateful to Packington Village History Group who once again will set up a display in the Church - which always contains fascinating information about our forebears in the village. We shall also exhibit a collection of favourite vintage childhood books. If you have treasured tales from the past to lend us, then please do unearth them and let Lesley know - she will arrange to pick them up from you nearer to the time.

This year, we are also pleased to host an **exhibition in the Memorial Hall by Country Colours Art Group** which is based in Heather and of which the Post's Treasurer, Christine, is a member - and as well as admiring the artists' skills, you may purchase if something catches your eye!

The creative arts will be well catered for during the afternoon since **Packington Community Choir** will be performing, in the garden of **Aimee, its musical director**. They are establishing an excellent reputation and are not to be missed.

There will of course, also be the usual cream teas, and other **refreshments**, ice-cream on sale, stalls and an "I-spy" game for children. But if there were nothing else on offer, the gardens are themselves sufficient attraction and will delight! So please do support the event. **Passports have been maintained at a price of £5 per adult, accompanied children free**. These will be available from the Recreation Ground car park, the Church, the Memorial Hall and participating gardens.

Whilst we now have sufficient gardens, we still **would very much appreciate help on the day**. Early in August, there will be lists in church for people to sign up to **make cakes, serve teas, help with the car-parking etc**. If it is more convenient, you are more than welcome to ring or email one of us to offer your services. Thank you in anticipation!

Proceeds from the event will be allocated to the Church Fabric Fund to help with the huge costs we are facing, principally in respect of the restoration of the Church Clock, the extensive repairs to the masonry surrounding the clock, and replacement of the louvres in the tower and of the roof of the tower, a felt covering which is beginning to degrade. We are applying for grants but, however, successful we are, we shall still have to supply a substantial sum ourselves.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the assistance we receive from **David Granger Architectural Design Ltd who sponsor our event** and are very generous with regards to our publicity and printing requirements.

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

Lesley Birtwistle 413309 or 07779 122797
lbwistle@googlemail.com

PHS Spring Fair RoundUp

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Spring Fair in April**. It was a lovely day for the village, with the hall full of new and familiar faces enjoying a brilliant mix of stalls. Our local stallholders brought an impressive range of food, crafts, gifts and lifestyle products, adding lots of variety to this year's fair.

We're delighted to share that, thanks to your generosity at the raffle, plant stall and cake table, the **fair raised just over £500**.

As always, every penny goes straight back into supporting village groups and local charitable causes. Recent donations have helped buy and rebuild three raised beds at the school, replace the flag at the church, and sponsor longtime Packington resident Ollie Dennies in the London Marathon, where he ran in support of the Alzheimer's Society.

83rd Packington Annual Village Show - Saturday 5th September

Packington's much loved tradition returns as we celebrate the **83rd Annual Village Show**. Whether you're showcasing homegrown veg, prize winning preserves or your best blooms, this year's event will be held on **Saturday 5th September 2026** at **Packington Memorial Hall.**



With categories ranging from homegrown vegetables and vibrant flowers to traditional crafts and homemade drinks, there's something for everyone. The ever-popular baking section returns with both sweet and savoury treats including sausage rolls, fresh bread, indulgent traybakes and the fiercely competitive Dundee cake. Children are encouraged to get creative too, with classes for miniature gardens, imaginative Lego creations and hand-decorated biscuits along with some new categories such as miniature scarecrow and best junk model.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just proud of your peculiar-looking courgette, the show is open to all from professional show growers to hobbyists and novices alike. It's a friendly and fun celebration of local talent, creativity and community spirit.



The day wraps up with delicious food and refreshments, a raffle, and of course, the much-loved produce auction, a highlight not to be missed! After a successful trial last year, we will once again be accepting card payments for the raffle, auction and entry fees.

This year's **83rd Show Guide** will be available and delivered to Packington residents during August.

Organised by the **Packington Horticultural Society (PHS)** - a dedicated team of volunteers - the Annual Village Show raises valuable funds for village organisations.

Keep up to date on Facebook at www.facebook.com/packingtonshow or search **'Packington Village Show'** or email **contactus@thephs.co.uk** to request your copy of the show guide.

Amy Powell, 07739 365205
www.facebook.com/packingtonshow

Packington's Water: From the Village History Group's archive

The hot weather we are experiencing this summer is a reminder of how much we depend on water for ourselves, our gardens, animals and many other things. Even though hose pipe bans or other restrictions may come our way, it is so convenient to get the water we need, simply at the turn of a tap. It was not always thus in Packington.

Piped water came to the village in 1952. Before this, villagers relied on a mixture of wells, pumps and springs for their supply. Many properties, particularly the village farms, had their own facilities, but there were also sources available for general use. A note from around 1950 tells of pumps at The Banks (the triangle at the top of Normanton Road) supplying ten dwellings; at Chapel Yard (probably next to the Methodist Church) supplying eight; and along Measham Lane, supplying six, with a well in Ashby Lane supplying five. It also notes "good" springs in Babelake Street, Measham Lane and Nether Street (the lower part of Mill Street).

Interviewed in later years, Joan Bradbury (nee Orton), who grew up at Round House Farm, recalled: "Ever such a deep pump my dad's was. It was a hard old thing. Very hard. It was lovely water, but the Vicarage pump was a terrible thing. The choir used to go on a Sunday morning and Friday night and somebody else perhaps on a Tuesday and pump it up to the cistern at the Vicarage."

Between the world wars the quality of supply came under scrutiny. The Burton Chronicle of 18th February 1937 reports on a meeting of Ashby Rural District Council's Water Committee. Three water samples had been taken at Packington and all were "bad." Problems in Normanton were also noted and a request made for the sanitary surveyor to report on water for both villages. The Chronicle tells us that Packington's representative on the Council, Herbert Hatton of Grange Farm, arrived late at the meeting and missed the discussion. On being told that a report was to be made, he declared that Packington had an ample supply of good water.

Mr. Hatton's confidence may have been misplaced. Six months later the Burton Chronicle noted the annual report of Dr. T. Forsyth, Ashby's Medical Officer of Health. He stated that many of the shallow wells in Packington showed signs of pollution and recommended that a piped supply from the Willesley Reservoir be considered. We have no indication of any outcome; perhaps the views of Mr. Hatton combined with the growing threat of war combined to delay progress.



Not everyone was pleased with the developments of 1952: Alf Parry of Charity Farm maintained that the water from his well was far superior to the new supply. Perhaps others agreed with him – wells can still be seen in the gardens and yards of some village properties. Meanwhile the pump on Measham Road remains in place, bearing a warning, "This water is not suitable for drinking." See the photo above!

Robin Boucher 01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

Community Choir Hits the Right Note!

On Thursday 2nd July Packington Community Choir and soloists Eleanor, Allen, Denise and choir leader Aimee performed a selection of musical pieces to an audience of villagers, family and friends at Holy Rood church.

The raffle, refreshments and voluntary contributions raised **£800 for the Holy Rood church renovation fund.**

Thanks go to all members of the choir, the soloists, those who helped with the refreshments, the audience and of course our talented choir leader Aimee.
The choir will be having a short break for the next two weeks and will then be preparing for their next performance at the Packington Open Gardens on 31st August. We look forward to seeing you then!

New members to the choir are always welcome at our sessions on Thursdays from 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Holy Rood church. Why not give singing in our community choir a try?

Contact Amiee on 07967 316645 for info.

PCG Retirement - Replacement Needed

Hello - I'm Robert Dilworth and I'm retiring in November from the **Packington Communications Group PCG**. The village needs SOMEONE to take over from me. **Could that be YOU?**

Look, I've been a volunteer member since 2008, eighteen years, **facilitating the electronic footprints of PCG** which are fundamental to the good communication we have in our village. It's not difficult, I do it from home, and most people under 65 know how to do that.

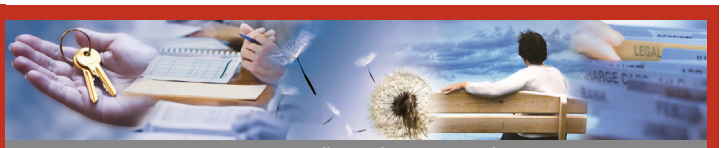
As well as the bi-monthly magazine, published six times a year, PCG publishes about 40 **email alerts** a year. We also advertise our village on simple websites and through social media. Our website **Packington.info** has been credited by most new arrivals to our village with being a large part of the "feel-good" factor that made them come here in the first place.

To take over from me you'll only need to be able to use a word-processor and email. I'll happily show you how to fire up the web hosting server we use to mount our emails and websites, explain how Mailchimp does all the Alerts work for us, show you the Facebook ropes, and I'll probably be around for backup as long as you need it. Perhaps YOU could then bring new social media into use, or even get AI help to disseminate news in the village?

PLEASE would you help? Just drop a brief email to **editor@packington.info** to show your interest - our village and PCG will thank you!

Robert Dilworth Web & Media facilitator PCG
robert@packington.info

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