Packington Post
www.packington.info

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Supporting Your Village

IS THIS THE LAST EVER ISSUE OF THE PACKINGTON POST?

Please Step up NOW and Help your Village

Emergency Village Meeting at Memorial Hall on Saturday 24th October 10.30am – 12.00. Please Come!

The Post and the wider activities of the Packington Communications Group (**www.packington.info**, Packington Facebook, Email Alerts) have been an integral part of village life since 2002, over 24 years.

Four of the team (three of whom have been in since the beginning) are not in their late 70s/80s and necessarily it is time for them to regrettably step back.

Despite several appeals in recent editions for new volunteers only one, much appreciated, member has joined the main team.

This is not sustainable and unless more people are able to take on and help with the task of putting together 6 issues per year and take on the responsibility for managing the 'IT' side of the group it will cease to exist.

The basic structure and systems are well established to pull the copy together and the final graphics/layout of the Post and put together by Context Print in the village so specific publishing skills are not required. **There will not be another Post, unless enough new people join PCG.**

The problem is not unique to the PCG.

In recent times we have lost Guides, WI, Packington Carnival and Packington Bonfire which despite overwhelming support for it to be resurrected in 2026 failed to attract any volunteers **(see article page 3)**.

Open Gardens is in desperate need of a small team to organise the event and is unlikely to continue in 2027. We also understand the Film Club is under threat for similar reasons.

That is why we are holding a special emergency meeting on 24th October to discuss the situation that is/will severely affect the sense of Community, the underlying reason why many of us chose to move here, that exists in the village and is slowly being eroded.

See articles by **Anthony Cash, page 2** and **Councillor Paul Fleetham, page 3** who both eloquently expand on the issue.



Next Edition: TBC Pending Volunteers

LETTER FROM LOCAL RESIDENT

Anthony Cash writes:

The principles of Community

My story is probably not dissimilar to many of you who live in Packington.

When we moved here over seven years ago, we wanted somewhere to put down roots that resembled Sunday television's version of the British countryside. A pub, a village shop and, most importantly, a sense of community.

I remember being welcomed by a friendly villager who handed us a pack of information about the village — and, perhaps more importantly, a takeaway menu! It was a small gesture, but it said a lot about Packington.

Since then, we've lived through Covid, watched our children grow and attempted to bring up two boys without completely losing our minds.

But one thing has become increasingly noticeable over the years: the deterioration of that sense of community.

Events we enjoyed when we first moved here have been scaled back because of a lack of volunteers, and in some cases they have disappeared altogether.

At the heart of Packington there is still a core group of people who work incredibly hard to keep the wheels turning. They give up their time, organise events, help others and do the things that often go unnoticed but are absolutely essential to village life.

But volunteering is a harder concept in modern life. Our lives are busy, time is a precious resource, and those people who have carried the baton for years are now getting ready to pass it on.

The problem is, there doesn't appear to be anyone waiting to take it.

And Packington isn't alone. Communities up and down the country are facing exactly the same challenge.

So, what am I rambling on about?

Quite simply, if we don't find the next generation of people willing to get involved, we risk losing the very thing many of us moved here for: **community.**

A village can very easily become a collection of houses rather than a community. People go to work, come home, shut the door and repeat. The elderly among us can become increasingly isolated. Children lose opportunities to grow up knowing their neighbours. And those little moments that make village life special slowly disappear.

And why does this matter to all of us?

Because community isn't just about having a massive party once a year. It is the small things we often take for granted. The person who checks on an elderly neighbour. The event that brings people together. The volunteer who gives up a Saturday morning. The person who simply says hello.

There is also a practical reality. A thriving community makes somewhere desirable to live. If we allow that community to disappear, it will inevitably affect the character — and ultimately the attractiveness — of the village.

So perhaps this is my little manifesto. We need to find the time, the energy and, most importantly, the people - to ensure our community doesn't just survive but thrives. This isn't about asking everyone to give up their lives or become a full-time volunteer.

It's about asking whether each of us can do **something**.

Because in 18 months' time, we may find that we've left it too late to pull things back. The time to protect what we moved here for isn't next year. **It's now.**

Because a village isn't just the houses, the roads and the postcode.

It's the people

Anthony Cash
cashconsultancy@me.com

Principles of Community Continued:

Packington is fortunate to have something that many communities have gradually lost – a real sense of village life. Over the years, that has been reflected in the many clubs, groups, organisations and events which operate within the village. From the History Group and Neighbourhood Watch to Party in the Park, The Lunch Club, community events and many other activities, they all contribute in different ways to making Packington the community that it is.

But there is a challenge which we increasingly need to recognise. Many of the people who have organised and supported these groups have been doing so for a considerable number of years. Some are now understandably looking to step back, while several village organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to attract new members and volunteers. Without new people becoming involved, there is a genuine risk that some of the activities we have perhaps come to take for granted will eventually disappear.

Our recent attempt to establish a committee to organise the village Bonfire and Fireworks event demonstrated the problem particularly clearly. There was considerable support within the village for the event to take place, but unfortunately nobody came forward to join the committee needed to organise it. Without people willing to help make an event happen, enthusiasm alone cannot keep it going.

That is not intended as criticism. People lead busy lives, and we all have competing demands on our time. Nor does volunteering necessarily mean taking on a major commitment. For many groups, an extra pair of hands, a new idea, help with a particular event or simply someone willing to share the workload can make an enormous difference.

And perhaps most importantly, you don't have to have lived in Packington for decades to become involved. If you are relatively new to the village, joining one of its groups can be one of the best ways of meeting people and becoming part of the community. Packington's clubs and organisations also need younger residents and new generations to become involved. They bring fresh ideas, different skills and new energy – and ensure that our village organisations continue to evolve rather than simply disappear when their longstanding members eventually step down.

The Parish Council therefore warmly supports the special edition of the *Packington Post* coming out in October and would encourage everyone to have a look at the groups and organisations featured in these pages.

Perhaps there is one that interests you.

Perhaps you have a skill that could help.

Perhaps you could spare a few hours occasionally rather than make a regular commitment.

Or perhaps you have an idea for something completely new.

Village life doesn't just happen – people make it happen.

The people who have given their time over many years have created a wonderful legacy for Packington. The best way we can thank them is to make sure there is another generation ready to carry it forward.

So, if there is something in the October special edition that catches your eye, please consider getting involved.

Paul Fleetham
cllrfleetham@packingtonparish.gov.uk

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
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Medium Residential Scheme Award WINNER



Packington Parish Council currently have a vacancy for a parish councillor. (See website at this QR code) Becoming a parish councillor offers a fantastic opportunity to positively influence your community.

Parish councillors 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.

As a parish councillor, you'll experience the rewarding satisfaction of seeing your community change for the better through your contributions. Council meetings typically occur once a month for two to three hours, making it manageable alongside other commitments. While you may attend additional meetings related to specific projects or events, these won't overwhelm your schedule.

Elected for a maximum of four years, you can choose to stand for re-election if you wish to continue serving. If you're passionate about your local area and want to be a voice for its residents, becoming a parish councillor could be perfect for you! Parish meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Packington Memorial Hall.

To be eligible to become a parish councillor you must be over 18 years of age with a local connection. You must have resided in the parish (or within 3 miles of it) for 12 months or more.

Expressions of interest to:
Chris Miles, Packington Parish Council
christopher.miles@sky.com

Memorial Hall

Update from the hall: As is usual we have had a relatively quiet period over the summer months, as everyone enjoys some time away in the school holidays, we have a reduced number of events on. The glorious hot weather we have had with an abundance of sunshine has really helped with our solar generation and has been essential while the air conditioning has been running. The solar allows us to keep the hire rates as low as possible and protects us from future energy price increases. We have also been able to have the decorator in to paint in the Kate Smerdon room, this was badly needed so we could tidy things up following the heating changes that have been made.

Sadly, the hot weather and drought this summer meant we had to cancel the Duck Race again. Despite the rain that shortly followed we did not have time to make the necessary preparations before the bank holiday. As was mentioned in the Facebook alert we aim to hold the event next year on the May Day Bank Holiday to coincide with the crowning of the May Queen and the Pennyroyal Dancers being in the village. This will hopefully mean that climate change will not affect the Duck Race.

The hall cannot run without the work of the volunteers that make up the trustees and management committee and we're once again making a call for new volunteers to join us. It truly is a rewarding experience to be able to contribute to the running of the hall which gives so many such happy memories.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to act as a meeting secretary to help with agendas and minutes for our meetings. We would also like a new trustee to take on a role looking after the hall's commitments to health, safety and the environment.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these roles, or just take an active part in the management of the hall please get in touch.

Steve Salt
chair@pmhv.uk

The Future of Packington Village Bonfire



The Breedon & Kiddier Charity (Recreation Ground) Trustees are sorry to confirm that there will be no Packington Village Bonfire in 2026.

This has not been an easy decision, particularly because the recent village consultation demonstrated that there remains considerable support for this long-standing Packington tradition.

When residents were asked whether they wanted the annual bonfire to continue, the response from those who participated was overwhelmingly positive. That gave the Trustees good reason to explore whether an event could still be organised this year.

However, wanting an event and being able to deliver one are unfortunately two different things.

A village bonfire and fireworks display require a considerable amount of planning and organisation. It cannot simply be put together on the night. Volunteers are needed to form an organising team, coordinate the various arrangements and ensure that the event is properly and safely delivered.

Following the consultation, the Trustees therefore put out a further appeal asking residents to volunteer to join a Bonfire Organising Committee. Previous experience was not essential, and the Trustees made clear that a new committee would have their full support.

Unfortunately, not a single volunteer came forward.

Without an organising committee, the Trustees have reluctantly concluded that there is now no realistic way of safely delivering the event this year.

It is perhaps worth clarifying how the event works. The recreation ground is owned by the Breedon & Kiddier Charity, which supports the village by making the ground available for community activities such as the bonfire. The Trustees are very willing to support such an event, but it is neither reasonable nor sustainable to expect the Trustees themselves to undertake all the organisation.

For village traditions to survive, they ultimately need participation from the village itself.

We know from the consultation that there is an appetite for the bonfire to continue. What we now need is a small group of people prepared to turn that support into an event. Rather than seeing the cancellation of the 2026 bonfire as the end of the tradition, we hope it can provide the starting point for a successful return in 2027.

This year has demonstrated that we need to begin much earlier. If a group of volunteers can be established well in advance, there will be plenty of time to plan properly, learn from previous events and consider residents' suggestions about the format of the evening.

The Trustees would therefore particularly like to hear from anyone who might be prepared to become involved in organising the 2027 Packington Village Bonfire. You don't need to commit to doing everything, and you don't need previous experience. A successful community event is built by several people each contributing what they can.

The Breedon & Kiddier Charity will continue to support the village and make its facilities available for appropriate community events.

Hopefully, with the village's help, we can see the bonfire lighting up Packington again in 2027.

Breedon & Kiddier Charity (Recreation Ground) Trustees

Paul Fleetham - Trustee

Packington Lunch Club

Pauline Miles writes:

After the extension to the Memorial Hall gave us a smaller meeting room in 2009, we decided to try to start a Lunch Club for the elderly in the village. Initially the two course meals were provided by ICare at a cost of £3.20 a head. This cost was subsidised by Leicestershire County Council who had a contract with the company to provide meals for the many Lunch Clubs they were encouraging throughout the county. Adrian Mongredien agreed to be treasurer, and I agreed to organise it.

Initial helpers included Mike Coke, Carol Hallam, Adrian and Kate Mongredien, Pauline and Chris Miles, Margaret Lawrence, Janet Baldwin and Valerie Smith.
Some of these gave lifts, especially to people who had lived in Packington and had to move away into easier accommodation. It was a real lifeline in these cases as it enabled them to keep in touch with their friends.



The first meal was served in October 2010 and we've been operating throughout apart from Covid. After Covid, we were able to meet in the main Hall, as Play School were no longer operating then. This allowed better social distancing.

After the County Council removed the subsidies, and the new meals were not as good, Rachael Miles, Hattie Plant and Mel Dughan got together to cook meals each month. Rachael has now been doing this for over 12 years and everyone really appreciated the lovely meals and the Christmas Hampers.

Sadly, Rachael has had to give up doing the meals and we wondered if the Club would be able to continue. Thankfully Mel Dughan has agreed to take it on, but the day and time have changed to **Friday at 1:00pm**. This may have to change yearly to accommodate Mel's timetable commitments.

I will carry on with organisation, and Mel has recruited a new team of enthusiastic helpers - thanks for the amazing response!

Thank you to Rachael, Alison, Steph, Ruth, Steve, Zac and the many people who have helped.

Pauline Miles
01530 414378

Packington Film Club



Packington Village CCTV: An Update

Packington's village CCTV scheme has now been operating for several years and continues to play an important role in helping to keep our village safe. We thought it would be useful to provide residents with a short update on the scheme, how it is used, and some changes you will see around the village over the coming weeks.

About the CCTV scheme

The CCTV scheme is funded by Packington Parish Council and managed on its behalf by the Village CCTV Working Group.

Cameras are positioned at strategic locations around Packington, primarily covering key routes into and out of the village. The purpose of the scheme is not to provide general surveillance of the village or to monitor residents going about their everyday lives. Instead, it provides a proportionate way of helping to identify vehicles or individuals associated with reported incidents, as well as supporting safeguarding matters where appropriate.

Access to CCTV footage is restricted and is only provided for authorised purposes in accordance with the scheme's policy and relevant data protection requirements.

We are currently refreshing the CCTV policy to reflect the scheme as it operates today. Once completed, the updated policy will be available through the Parish Council's policies website.

How has the CCTV been used?

Thankfully, the CCTV system is not something we need to use every day. However, when incidents do occur, it has proved to be a valuable resource.

Over recent years, footage from the scheme has been used to support a range of incidents, including burglaries and thefts, dangerous driving and vehicle tracking, suspicious behaviour, vandalism and safeguarding matters.

In some cases, this has meant helping to identify vehicles connected with an incident or providing information that can assist the police with their enquiries. In others, CCTV has been able to provide useful information in support of safeguarding concerns.

While the direct use of CCTV can be recorded, one of its other benefits is much harder to measure: deterrence. Making it clear that Packington has an active CCTV scheme will hopefully discourage some opportunistic crime from taking place in the first place and demonstrate that, as a village, we take the safety and security of our community seriously.

CCTV is, of course, only one part of keeping Packington safe, but we believe it provides a useful additional tool when incidents occur.

New signs around the village

Over the next month, we will be refreshing the CCTV signs around Packington. Some of the existing signs are starting to look a little weathered, so, working with the Parish Council, we felt this was a good opportunity to replace them and ensure the signage across the village is clear and consistent.

As well as providing information about the scheme, having clear and visible signs helps reinforce the deterrent effect of CCTV.

You may therefore notice members of the CCTV Working Group replacing signs at various locations around the village over the coming weeks.

A sticker for your window

We have also produced new Packington Village CCTV window stickers for residents who would like to display one at their property.

You should find a sticker included with this edition of the Packington Post. There is absolutely no obligation to display it, but we hope that having stickers visible at homes around the village will further reinforce the message that Packington has an active CCTV scheme and takes community safety seriously.

If you would like any additional stickers, please contact Karl on 07905 439115 and we will be happy to provide them.

The CCTV Working Group regularly reviews the operation of the scheme, including its policy and camera coverage, to ensure it remains proportionate, appropriately governed and useful to the village.

Finally, we would like to thank Packington Parish

Council for its continued funding and support of the CCTV scheme.

Karl Saunt, CCTV Team
07905 439115 ksaunt@hotmail.com

Packington Table Tennis Club

Packington Table Tennis Club is a friendly community sports club based at the village Memorial Hall. We encourage all ages and abilities from Packington and the local area to enjoy table tennis, as complete beginners, recreational players or competitors.

The club provides on **Wednesday's (6:30pm - 9:30pm)** and **Thursday 's (7:00pm - 10:00pm)** informal welcoming weekly open practice sessions. You can improve skills, enjoy competitive games and meet other local players. We provide tables and balls, as well as bats for beginners, so new players don't need to purchase any equipment immediately.

Junior coaching sessions are delivered for younger players every **Wednesday (4:00pm - 6:30pm)** with the guidance of our **qualified coaching staff - Dawn Sagoo**, a level 2 coach, at a cost of £10 per month. The club has also worked with Packington Primary School to encourage children into table tennis. Junior participation provides a path for young players, from learning the basics to taking part in competitive matches. We have 4 juniors already playing in the Loughborough League, and the photo shows coach Dawn with some juniors:



For players who want a more competitive challenge, we enter 4 teams in the Loughborough and District Table Tennis League. We compete against teams from other local clubs, both singles and doubles. The club has encouraged players of different standards to get involved. The **Packington Patriots** won Division 2 of the Loughborough League and were runners up in the summer handicap Cup. The **Packington Pumas** finished a creditable 5th in Division 2 while the **Panthers** finished 2nd in Division 3. The **Pirates** finished 7th in Division with some new players. In the photo below chairman George Taylor presents the Div 2 trophy to Lawrence Dack and Julian Bennion - not shown, James Mattley, also played.



We welcome players of any age, gender or ability. It's an affordable way to take part in sport. The club is now established in the local sporting community, with support from the village and Packington Memorial Hall - continued **sponsorship from JJM Planning** enables new equipment and team shirts to be purchased … many thanks James !



Holy Rood Church

Upcoming Church Services

Holy Rood Church, Packington

Sun 27th Sept 10:00am Holy Communion

Sun 4th Oct 10:00am Breakfast Church



Sun 11th Oct 10:45am
Family Harvest Service, Followed by a Ploughman's Lunch from **12:30pm**. Come to both, the service or the lunch. Booking not necessary but would help with catering. To book for the meal please phone Anne 01530 414621 or Lesley 413309

Collection of donations of food tins, packets and jars for the local Food Bank.

Wed 21st Oct 10:00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

Thur 22nd Oct 12noon - 2:00pm Toastie

Sun 25th Oct 10:00am Holy Communion

Saturday 31st Oct 3:00pm
Lights of Love Service



Remembrance and Reflection when we pray for your loved ones, and you are invited to light a candle in their memory. Those who have been bereaved in the last two or three years will receive a personal invitation, but everyone is welcome, whenever their loss occurred. *Followed by refreshments.*

Sun 1st Nov 10:00am Breakfast Church

Remembrance Sunday 8th Nov 10:45am



Join us, as we remember the sacrifices made for us, give thanks, and pray for peace.

Drinks will be served afterwards.

Wednesday 18th Nov 10:00am
BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 22nd Nov 10:00am
Confirmation service

This special service will be conducted by the Rt. Revd. Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester. All are most welcome to attend. Six candidates from churches in the Woodfield Team will be confirmed, two of whom are from Packington.

Holy Trinity Church, Normanton-le-Heath

Sun 20th Sept 10:00am Holy Communion

Sun 4th Oct 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun 18th Oct 10.00am Harvest Worship

Sun 1st Nov 10:00am Morning Worship

Sun 15th Nov 10:00am Holy Communion

Sun 22nd Nov 10.00am Joint Service with Packington

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309
lbwistle@googlemail.com



Holy Rood Church

Family

Harvest Service

Sunday 11th October

at 10.45 am

Coffee is being served after the service
Followed by a Ploughman's Lunch from 12.30.
Booking not necessary but would help with catering

To book for the meal please phone

Anne 01530 414621

Or Lesley 01530 413309

Come to both, the service or the lunch

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

Toasties



Our summer toastie events have been surprisingly busy - particularly the July one, when we clashed with the school's sports activity week. We thought we would be very quiet! Over the two days we have seen and fed 61 adults and 48 children with delicious cheese toasties and cakes. An amazing selection of crafts from icing cakes to making light houses/ football biff bats, Bee drinkers and bug hotels. Tattoos were popular with some of the adults as well as the children.

Our theme in July was perseverance, and Jacob won the Hula Hoop Crisp Challenge with the tallest stack (not an easy task) Vernon helped make helmets and shields out of junk boxes. Donations at these two events raised £217.33 towards the church expenses.

Our next Toastie is in Church on Thursday 22nd October 12noon until 2:00pm. You are still very welcome to come for lunch even if you have no little people to bring along.

Thank you to all my helpers who make this event possible.

Charity Coffee Morning in Church

Saturday 31st October 10:00am - 12Noon

Help us raise funds for Breast Cancer UK and Prostate Cancer UK - Beautiful Crafts, Christmas Cards, Raffle and much more. Come along and start your Christmas shopping! We also hold coffee mornings every 4th Wed 10-12.00 which includes books/jigsaws to borrow or swap.

Anne Wathes 07525 377860

The Unofficial Duck Race - On the same day as open gardens there was an unofficial duck race at 3:00pm. Everyone brought a duck, some made and some not. The children threw them off the bridge at Hall Lane. It was a challenging race, with ducks getting stuck in reeds and brambles and having to deal with brook rapids!
At the end sweets were given out to congratulate the people on a great duck race. - **Sophia Turnbull, aged 9**

Unofficial Duck Race's Make a Splash



Packington unofficial Duck Race Champion 2026.



While the official 2026 Packington Duck Race was cancelled around the weather, two unofficial races took place from Hall Lane Bridge on Monday 31st August, brilliantly supported by the village.

Around 30 ducks entered, with a colourful mixture of customised and shop-bought competitors taking to the water.
After a closely contested race, Arthur Cash of Spring Lane claimed first place and, more importantly, the honour of being crowned.
Thank you to everyone who entered, helped nudge the ducks along, and supported from the sidelines.

The organisers of the official Duck Race are now looking to reinstate the event in 2027, with the plan to move it to the May Bank Holiday, when it is hoped there will be a better chance of good water flow.

Karl Saunt, Shadow Duck Warden
07905 439115 kaunt@hotmail.com

Open Gardens - Bank Holiday Monday



To be honest, we were somewhat apprehensive beforehand as to whether the afternoon would be a success.

Whilst all those who opened their gardens (to whom we are immensely grateful) did a wonderful job, the exceptionally hot and dry summer did cause all sorts of problems for gardeners. It was very likely therefore that there would be some diminishment in the usual beauty of each of the gardens on show. Of course, the weather was somewhat dubious, with early showers.

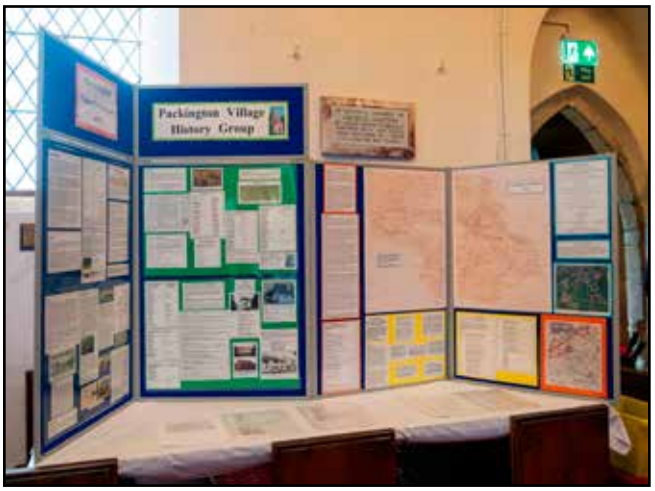


We need not have worried! All went well and we received many comments from people who said how much they had enjoyed it. Karn took some lovely photos to prove how wrong were our misgivings (see Packington Post Facebook).

A huge thank you to all who helped in any way with baking, serving teas, selling passports, marshalling on the car park, etc.



And thank you too to the bell-ringers and to Aimee and the Community Choir for the pleasure they gave, and to the Country Colours Art Group and the History Group for their attractive displays. And a final warm “thank you” to all of you who turned out, spent your money and supported the event!



It realised just under £3,000 for the church fabric fund – a great help to our fund-raising efforts for our expensive tower repairs.

Lesley Birtwistle 01530 413309
lbwistle@googlemail.com

Anne Wathes 01530 414621
anne.wathes@live.co.uk

Packington's Bells - From the Village History Group Archive

One of the pleasures of walking round Packington on a Monday evening is to hear the sound of **Holy Rood Church's bells**, as the bellringers hold their weekly practice session. Firmly part of village life today, they call worshippers to church, celebrate events both local and national, these bells have featured through the past five centuries.



One of the 6 bells, showing the mechanisms

The earliest record we have of them dates from 1552 when Crown Commissioners listed "three belles." Between 1684 and 1695 work was carried out on the bells by William Noone of Nottingham and **in 1695** churchwarden Richard Donisthorpe tells us: "Cast three old bells into four, with the addition of 200 weight and upwards." The new bell was inscribed with the words "**Let the Gospel Flourish 1695.**" This bell still rings today.

One night in February 1790 there was a violent thunderstorm. Villagers were startled to hear the bells ringing in the wind. Next morning they discovered that the tenor bell had been struck by lightning and cracked. It was **re-cast in 1793** by Edward Arnold of Leicester; again, it still rings today.

Two of the bells were re-cast by John Taylor & Co.'s foundry in **Loughborough in 1875 and 1876** with a further bell being added.



The 6 bell pull-wheels in our Church tower

A tragic incident occurred in **December 1944** at the induction service for a new vicar, Rev. Frank Cottrell: one of the bellringing team, Herbert Hatton, collapsed and died while in the act of ringing. Mr. Hatton had been a prominent figure in Packington, farming at Grange Farm on the High Street and serving as the village's representative on Ashby Rural District Council for a number of years. A plaque in the church tells us that his brother George, who died in 1953, left money for the re-setting of the bells – no doubt remembering Herbert's enthusiasm for ringing.

In **1954**, following George Hatton's bequest and a fundraising effort in the village, the full set of bells was sent to John Taylor's foundry to be re-tuned and set in a new iron frame. A treble bell was added, inscribed with the words "Sound Aloud God's Praises." This brought the number of bells to six, which remains the position today. Long may they continue to ring out!

Thanks to Chris Pickford at the John Taylor Museum Archive, Loughborough, for supplying some of the above. Full details of the bells in Dove's Guide - use the QR code just here:

Robin Boucher PVHG Chair
01530 411638
ptrboucher123@outlook.com

PACKINGTON PARTY IN THE PARK
A FANTASTIC RETURN!

July saw the much-anticipated return of Party in the Park, and what a day it was! The Park was full of laughter, music, so many activities and happy faces of all ages. It was wonderful to see so many villagers, families and friends come together to support this special community event.

A huge thank you to everyone Who came along, volunteered, helped behind the scenes and supported the event. Your energy and enthusiasm made is such a success!

We would also like to thank our sponsors.

Your generosity made all the difference to ensuring that events like this can continue for our village.

Together we can continue to create a fantastic day for Packington.



WE NEED YOU

Join the Committee or Lend a Hand

We want to make Party in the Park 2027 even bigger and better with more ideas, more activities and even more for everyone to enjoy

TO DO THIS WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for friendly, enthusiastic people to join the organising committee or offer a helping hand in any way they can.

Interested? Please contact Suzanne on 07738 294974

Thank You, Packington Post Distributors!

Every two months each household in Packington receives the latest copy of the Packington Post. How does it get to you…?

We have a team of volunteer distributors who take on this task and do their utmost to get the Packington Post delivered to you over the distribution weekend.

So enormous thanks go to Adrian, Antony, Judith, Martin, Nev, Nigel, Oscar, Pauline, Pippa, Tony and Susan. We could not get the Packington Post delivered without you!



Susan, pictured above, has been one of our distributors since the 2002 launch of the Packington Post but is now moving away - her deliveries on the High Street will be taken over by another member of the distribution team. Thank you to Susan for her many years of deliveries on her various distribution routes!

Loretta Kirk, Packington Post Distribution Coordinator

07840 721206 lorettakrk@aol.com



Packington Charity Quiz Night

Local residents from Packington and neighbouring communities are invited to a fun and friendly Charity Quiz Night on **Friday 20th November**, raising money in support of Breast Cancer.

Hosted by local resident Mike Powell, the event will take place at **Packington Memorial Hall**, starting at **7:30pm**, and promises an enjoyable evening with all proceeds going directly towards this fantastic cause.

Teams of four are invited to take part in an evening packed with variety: 10 rounds of 10 questions on mixed subjects, a picture quiz, a raffle, and a bar with waiter service to your table.

This early announcement is shared so everyone can save the date and get their teams booked in.

Everyone is welcome, and it's sure to be a great night out for a well deserving cause. The cost is £2.50 per person – maximum 4 per team.

Teams will be booked on a first come first served basis - to book your team a place, email **amyl_powell@yahoo.com**

Church Path

Have you walked along the Church path up past the school recently?

Have you spotted how lovely the flower border is looking near the David Hall bench?

It is all thanks to Sallie Ann and her friend Tracey. After the battle with a very hot summer and the ground elder that grows regardless of the heat this small remembrance garden is looking very pretty.



So, thank you for volunteering to take this area on and we look forward to watching this space

Anne Wathes 01530 414621

Letter to the Editor

Just wanted to say what a really excellent Packington Post you produced this month (Issue 139).

It's packed with interesting content that's current, relevant and genuinely a great read, with some excellent photographs throughout.

It was also good to see upcoming village events being promoted, along with Parish Council business being shared and communicated so clearly. It all helps keep the community informed and connected.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone on the editorial team. You've done a fantastic job, well done.

Simon Cunningham

Horticultural Society

A Proud Village Tradition Blooms Again at the 83rd Packington Village Show

Earlier this month the 83rd Annual Village Show took place at Packington Memorial Hall, with another fantastic turnout from residents and visitors from neighbouring villages.



Although the hot summer weather meant fewer vegetable entries this year, the show still offered a vibrant display of flowers and a strong selection of produce. The junior classes were a real highlight, with imaginative creations and beautifully presented entries. The home baking tables were filled with perfectly risen Victoria sponges, tangy lemon drizzle cakes, flapjacks, scones and more, while the preserves, pickles and handcrafted items also proved popular.

After the judging was complete, visitors were welcomed back in to admire the exhibits. Pizzas from Biddulph's Pizzeria were a hit, while the bar kept drinks flowing throughout the evening. The raffle saw some brilliant prizes up for grabs, generously donated by local businesses and supporters. Lucky winners walked away with treats and vouchers from Hill Farm, Tesco, Woodlander, W Taylor Butchers and The Garden Warehouse as well as a Villair holiday voucher, and a three month membership from Bluestone Fitness and two handcrafted birdboxes to name a few.

Trophies, Cups and Medals were then presented to entrants winning the most points or best in class in certain categories. Laura Bryant collected the Baking of Excellence Medal and Harriet Edwards received the PHS Junior Medal for the most meritorious entry in the junior categories. The coveted RHS Banksian Medal, for most points in the vegetable, flowers and fruit sections, was awarded to Louise Livesey for the third year running. A full list of winners will be published on the website in due course.

As always, the event culminated in the much anticipated auction of the exhibits. Friendly competition meant baskets of produce, flowers and baked goods - along with the winning sausage rolls, Victoria Sponge and Dundee cake - sparked some lively rounds of bidding, with the Dundee cake selling for £80 alone. A Spa Day generously donated by Champneys Springs was also added to the auction and sold for £65.

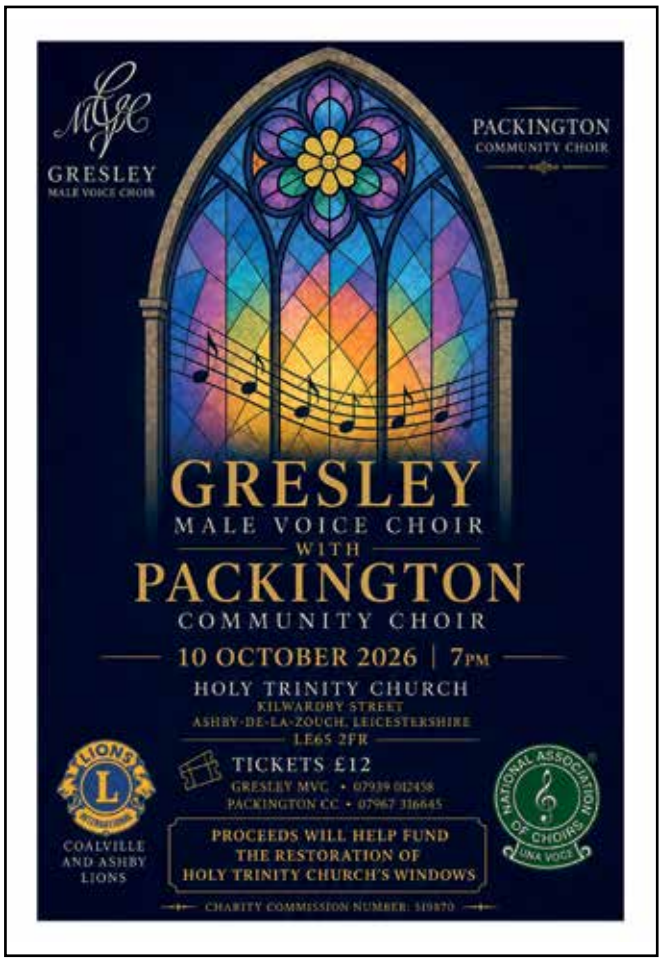


Chairperson, Laura Bryant, commented: *"I would like to thank everybody who exhibited, attended, viewed, bought raffle tickets and bid in the auction that made the 83rd Packington Village Show such a success. Your generosity and enthusiasm mean we can continue to support a number of our local village groups and clubs, as well as contributing to the continued financial stability of local charities such as Rainbows children's hospice and Bright Hope. It has been such a pleasure to see the hall filled with community spirit, laughter and friendship. I'm so grateful to the committee, our volunteers and our generous sponsors, we couldn't do it without you. I look forward to continuing this village tradition together for many more shows in the years ahead."*

Once the total raised from the auction and raffle has been finalised, the PHS team will announce which local groups and charities will benefit from donations. These details will be published at a later date.

Photos from the show, will be available on the website in the coming days. To keep up to date with news about all PHS events follow us on **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/packingtonshow

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





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