

THE PACKINGTON NEWSLETTER

Issue 87

July 2025



Line drawing of Church by Jon Brierley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



After what felt like months and months of rain, 2025 has had the warmest and sunniest Spring on record. Being typically British we are never quite satisfied and although it has been lovely to not see a pair of wellies for quite a few months, the gardens and the farms have struggled. Nevertheless the fruit trees and the hedgerows are bursting and crossing fingers the sunshine now stays for the Harvest.

The glorious weather has however meant that not only were we able to have our annual cricket match without cancelling, we also got away without having a thunderstorm during the garden opening for the first time in 3 years! Both were big successes with a very diplomatic draw in the cricket and we raised £3,000 at the garden opening for the National Garden Scheme which was wonderful.

Many of you will have also driven past Church Field over the last few days and seen a village of tents. This was for the Festival of Sport, a family-based festival with lots of sport-based activities hosted by a series of ex-professional athletes. It's due to be here at Packington for the next few years so if you missed it this year then keep a look out for information and tickets next time around.

It is now early August and although it looks like we are in for another heatwave over the next few days, our minds are beginning to turn towards the Autumn months. The calendar is once again filling up with Estate events so please get the dates in your diaries. We kick it all off with the The Social Club Fish & Chip Quiz Night on **Friday 26th September** held in the Undercroft.

This year our Harvest Supper will be on **Thursday 16th October**. This will be held in the Pompeiian Room in the Hall and information on how to book tickets is further on in the magazine. The deadline for these is Wednesday 1st October!

On **Saturday 1st November** we are back in Church Field with the Estate Bonfire Night. We will be sending around a link to book tickets for this in the next few weeks so keep your eyes peeled.

Then believe it or not we are into December with our Carols by Candlelight charity concert on **Wednesday 10th December**. Our more traditional Carol Service will follow a week or so later on **Friday 19th December** and this will lead into the Social Club's Christmas Quiz Night, a perfect evening for getting into the festive spirit!

Our church services are, as always, held on the first Sunday of every month (unless otherwise stated). Some of you will have already met our new vicar, Jim Perryman. He will be around on the Estate at least once a week so please do come and say hello.

We hope that you all have a wonderful rest of your Summer.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wednesday 13th August	WI - Garden Party	DETAILS TBC
Wednesday 10th September	WI - Emily Laura Jones (poet laureate)	THE UNDERCROFT PACKINGTON HALL 7.30PM
Friday 26th September	The Social Club Fish & Chip Quiz Night	THE SOCIAL CLUB PACKINGTON HALL FROM 7.30PM
Wednesday 8th October	WI - Anne Harrison 'Call me Auntie'	THE UNDERCROFT PACKINGTON HALL 7.30PM
Thursday 16th October	The Estate Harvest Supper	POMPEIIAN ROOM PACKINGTON HALL 7.30PM
Saturday 1st November	The Estate Bonfire Night	CHURCH FIELD PACKINGTON PARK 5.30PM FIRE LIT 7PM FIREWORKS
Wednesday 12th November	WI - Trevor Langley 'Daddy Long Legs' (Teaching in a deaf school & sign language)	THE UNDERCROFT PACKINGTON HALL 7.30PM
Sunday 30th November	The Meriden Rotary Club Santa Fun Run	PACKINGTON PARK 11AM
Wednesday 10th December	WI - Xmas Party	THE UNDERCROFT PACKINGTON HALL 7.30PM
Wednesday 10th December	Carols by Candlelight Charity Concert	ST JAMES' CHURCH PACKINGTON PARK 7PM
Friday 19th December	Packington Estate Carol Service	ST JAMES' CHURCH PACKINGTON PARK 6PM
Friday 19th December	The Social Club Christmas Quiz Night	THE SOCIAL CLUB PACKINGTON HALL FROM 7.30PM

ST JAMES' CHURCH

As I write, I am on my way home from the Swiss Alps after a seven-week-long work trip in my, soon to end when I retire in November, part-time role with the Intercontinental Church Society (www.ics-uk.org). For the past thirteen years, my responsibilities have included facilitating the chaplaincies to English-speaking people based at the Church of England churches in Wengen and Zermatt. They are great places to be based, I've enjoyed meeting and serving people from around the world, and I've had plenty of chances to enjoy the beauty and majesty of God's creation on my hikes in the hills, but I'm looking forward to being home and to beginning a new chapter in my life and in the life of the church on the Packington Estate.

Since I retired earlier this year from my other part-time role as Vicar in Leek Wootton, I have already had the pleasure of leading worship at St James' Church at Easter and the beginning of May, but from the start of July, my role expands to be offering chaplaincy services to the whole Estate community, and it is about that role that I particularly want to write for this edition. Over these next few months, I hope that we can explore together what this role might bring to the life of the Estate, integrating the church more fully into the overall vision including ecology and sustainability, and offering residents, workers and visitors pastoral and spiritual care, and a listening ear which is independent of the main management team.

As well as leading the monthly services at the church, which I am hoping to make more accessible to all ages and levels of Christian understanding and faith, I plan to be around the Estate for at least one full working day a week (to be confirmed, but probably Wednesdays in general), hopefully visiting many of the homes and businesses and getting to know people. I plan to have a dedicated phone number for use as Chaplain, although this isn't yet arranged, so that you can make contact and arrange to meet up or chat. You can also contact me by email at packingtonchaplain@gmail.com. I plan to be around at many of the social events on the Estate – and to occasionally play a round on the Stonebridge Golf Course!

Psalm 24 begins with the words, 'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it'. As I have been enjoying the majestic mountains and amazing views, and also the beautiful plants and wildlife, of the Alps, it is easy to focus on the creation, but to forget to look beyond it to be in relationship with the Creator / OUR Creator. The same danger is there in our daily work and home life where, often, the mundane activities and the everyday or sudden problems and stresses can fill or numb our minds and our soul. But, just as the sun is always there – even on a cloudy day or at dead of night when we cannot see it, so I believe that God is always there for each and every one of us, whatever may be the barriers or the darkness in our lives that stop us perceiving him and his love. If, in my role, I can offer a glimpse of Son-shine through listening or through prayer – either with you or for you – or simply through offering a friendly smile, then please allow me to serve you over these coming months.

With love in Jesus – who is both Son of God and Son of Man.

Jim

ST JAMES' CHURCH

**THE ESTATE CHAPEL OF ST JAMES, PACKINGTON PARK,
Great Packington, Nr Meriden CV7 7HF**
In the Diocese of Coventry

Visitors enter via automated Park Gates from the A45 Eastbound c.400 yds after the
Stonebridge roundabout.

SERVICES for 2025

Sunday Services held monthly (usually on the first Sunday) at 10.30 a.m. unless stated otherwise

August 10th	Lammas Celebration	Holy Communion
September 7th	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion
October 5th	Harvest Festival	Holy Communion
November 9th	Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion
December 7th	Advent Sunday	Holy Communion
December 19th	Carol Service	6pm
December 25th	Christmas Day	Family Communion

All are most welcome to these Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN THE UNDERCROFT OF PACKINGTON HALL 23RD APRIL 2025

Present: Lord Aylesford Lord and Lady Guernsey
Ben Gray Sam White
Ros Smith Margaret Roper
Joan and Adrian Hall David and Libby Mander
Reverend Peter Holliday Reverend Jim Perryman and Nicola Perryman
Tom and Kate Beaty

Apologies: David and Carol Garnett Rita Poulson

ACTION

1.0 **MEETING – 13TH MAY 2024**

1.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2024 were approved and signed by Lord Charles Aylesford, as a true record. They had previously been circulated within the summer 2024 edition of the Packington Parish Magazine.

1.2 Matters arising from the 13th May 2024 meeting were as follows:

1.2.1 **WC's**

BG confirmed that the WC's for the Church were close to being completed and would be opened during the summer of 2025.

1.2.2 **Internal Decorations and Water Damage**

BG confirmed that internal decoration of the Church was an on-going project and that changes to the Church duct system from the Crypt had been made to try and improve air flow through the Church, which should help with the condensation that is leading to the markings on the internal decorations.

In addition, an infra-red 14kw heater had been purchased and this too should help alleviate the situation.

It was noted that further works may be required to improve ventilation to prevent condensation building up on the walls.

2.0 **CHURCH REPORT**

2.1 David Mander advised that his report was in the same format as in previous years and that there were no further comments in respect of that report.

2.2 Lady Guernsey also wished to extend her thanks to David and Libby Mander for their continued support and help with all things St. James.

ST JAMES' CHURCH

- 2.3 David also wanted to recognise the contribution that Rita Poulson has made over the years in playing the organ and that whilst Rita was officially stepping back, she might like to be involved with the Church going forward

3.0 **NEW VICAR**

- 3.1 BG welcomed The Reverend Jim Perryman as the new Vicar for the Church. Jim introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he had some duties to attend to, in Switzerland, over the summer months but would be looking to start his role within the Parish following his return later in the summer.

- 3.2 Lord and Lady Guernsey thanked The Reverend Canon Peter Holliday for all of his effort and contributions he had made to the Estate over the past year and wished him every luck and success for the future.

4.0 **FUTURE DATES**

- 4.1 Services are to be held on May 4th, June 1st and July 6th, all commencing at 10.30 am.

5.0 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

LGG

- 5.1 Tom and Kate Beaty wished to make a request that their daughter, Rebecca Beaty and fiancé, Adam, could be married at St. James on the 20th June 2026. It was confirmed this was both exciting and excellent news and everybody passed on their congratulations. The Estate would be in contact with Kate and Tom to arrange the details.

- 5.2 There being no other business, the meeting closed.

Lord Aylesford

Signed:

Lord Charles Aylesford

Date: 15 May 2025 | 4:47 PM BST

Prepared by : Ben Gray
25th April 2025

ST JAMES' CHURCH

NEW BOOK

We've been contacted by Amberley Publishing, a local history publishers, to let us know that there is a new book coming out, called the 'Churches of Warwickshire', which features St James, Great Packington.

The book is out now and is available in bookshops (Waterstones in Coventry will probably be the closest) as well as museums and heritage sites across the county. It will also be available to order online from Amazon or via their website www.amberley-books.com, and in E-book format as well for people with Kindles. Details below.



Advance Information

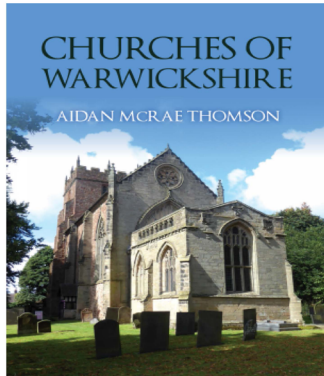
**AMBERLEY
PUBLISHING**

The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud
Gloucestershire, GL5 4EP
www.amberley-books.com

CHURCHES OF WARWICKSHIRE

AIDAN MCRAE THOMSON

A fascinating exploration of Warwickshire's historic churches. Will be of interest to all those who live in or are visiting this attractive county in England.



The county of Warwickshire has a rich and varied past that is reflected in its historic churches. In *Churches of Warwickshire*, author and stained-glass artist Aidan McRae Thomson explores a selection of the most interesting churches across the whole of the county. Coventry has been included as it was part of the historic county and the buildings featured range from churches in the county town of Warwick and major settlements such as Nuneaton, Rugby and Leamington Spa to market towns, not least Stratford-upon-Avon, and villages, representing the many different architectural eras and styles to be found in Warwickshire's churches. The book covers a cross section of churches throughout the county, both well-known and those waiting to be discovered by a wider audience. This fascinating picture of an important part of the history of Warwickshire over the centuries will be of interest to all those who live in or are visiting this attractive county in England.

MARKETING, PUBLICITY, PRESS

- Will appeal to those interested in the history of Warwickshire
- Review coverage in local press and media
- Author lives locally and is available to promote the book

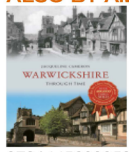
THE AUTHOR

Aidan McRae Thomson is an artist and restorer who has worked in stained glass for over twenty years, giving him an 'insider's perspective on the medium, in addition to being a well travelled photographer who has studied, written and lectured on the subject. Having spent time as part of a conservation studio he has created windows for a variety of churches across the Midlands. He now works as an independent artist in the medium, and has recently added church mural decoration to his oeuvre. He has had a passion for ecclesiastical architecture since a childhood visit to Norwich Cathedral. Aidan lives and works in Warwickshire.

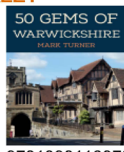
BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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Rights: World, all languages

ALSO BY AMBERLEY



9781445609959
£14.99



9781398110373
£15.99

LEND A FLOWER ROTA



We have set up a rota to do flowers for the once a month service. If it is your turn, please take them home after the service to enjoy them, otherwise they would be wasted!

If you cannot do the month allocated please let me know:

Lady Guernsey.....01676 522274 (E-mail..... georgie@packingtonestate.co.uk)

If someone has mentioned to me that they would like to do a Sunday and your name is not down, my apologies but please could you write / phone in and then it will be remembered! Equally, if someone is down that would rather not do it, please can you email or drop me a line. Thank you.

August 10th 2025	Mrs Garnet
September 7th 2025	Mrs Smith
October 5th 2025	Farmers' Wives
November 9th 2025	Mrs Mander
December 7th 2025	Mrs Dalton
December 19th 2025	Lady Guernsey
December 25th 2025	Lady Guernsey

Lady Guernsey will organise the flowers over the Christmas and Easter periods.

Packington Hall, Meriden, Nr. Coventry, CV7 7HF

Tel: Estate Office - 01676 522020

THE WI

Packington & Maxstoke W.I. Programme for 2025-2026



DATE	LOCATION	Save the Date!
August 13th – Garden Party	TBC	<p>We will endeavour to arrange more opportunities to meet up more in 2025, please let us know if you have any other suggestions.</p> <p>Puzzle drop-in at Yvonne's every Tuesday afternoon.</p> <p>Rummikub twice a month.</p> <p>President - Kate Beaty: 07761 826 854 or k8tbt@btinternet.com</p> <p>Secretary - Jan Wade: janice.wade@btopenworld.com</p>
September 10th – Emily Laura Jones (Poet Laureate)	Packington Undercroft	
October 8th – Anne Harrison 'Call me Auntie'	Packington Undercroft	
November 12th – Trevor Langley 'Daddy Long Legs' (Teaching in a deaf school & sign language)	Packington Undercroft	
December 10th – Xmas Party	Packington Undercroft	
January – No Meeting	Packington Undercroft	
February 12th – Jenny Worrall "Elizabethan dress" (demo)	Packington Undercroft	
March 12th – W.I. Birthday Party	Packington Undercroft	

PACKINGTON NEWS

NGS GARDEN OPENING

We went for a slightly different approach with the NGS garden opening this year and instead of opening for just an afternoon on a Sunday, this year on Saturday 5th July we opened the gardens for the National Garden Scheme from 11am-5pm. The change of day, longer hours, and not to mention the 'Toy Shop', seemed to work as we not only had 400 people come to see the gardens but we raised an amazing £3,000! This was almost double, in terms of both visitors and proceeds, what we raised last year which was wonderful.

Not only that but instead of the traditional thunderstorms we had a dry day so all in all it was a great success. A huge thank you must go to the garden team who worked their socks off to get the gardens looking so great, as well as Paul for the mowing, Chris, Jane and Dawn for lending their hands and of course our lovely volunteers too. It was a wonderful team effort and all the hard work certainly paid off. All the money raised goes straight to the National Garden Scheme and contributes to the millions of pounds that they then pass onto charities such as Marie Curie, Macmillan, Carers Trust and many other worthy beneficiaries.

Thank you to the WI for once again providing delicious cakes, jams and teas and to everyone that came along and supported us, we are really grateful.



PACKINGTON NEWS

IN THE GARDEN

In the last edition, I had thought that the lovely, warm weather we had in March was a 'Fool's Spring' and I couldn't have been more wrong! Since March we have barely had more than 7 days of rain. Although the warmth and the sunshine has been wonderful, the garden has been very thirsty. Not only that but we have definitely noticed that everything has had a much shorter life span this year with flowers going over very quickly. Nevertheless, certain things such as the fruit and dahlias have been incredible and the doves have certainly been enjoying cooling off in the water feature!

For very happy reasons we have said a fond farewell to Danni, our Head Gardener, as she is off to have a baby boy in October! We wish her the very best of luck on her new adventure. The garden is still growing and developing with the pergola now finished and planted up. A beautiful table, made from a fallen Cedar in the garden, is also currently being made by James' cousin, Thomas Crawley (plus an extra small person!), who is a very talented carpenter.



PACKINGTON NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE STABLES?



The Stables project is well underway and we are really beginning to see rooms and spaces take shape. The massive task of paving the courtyard hasn't started yet but internally it is looking great.

Walls are being plastered and in some places skirting and coving are going in, along with the lighting, which is very exciting. There was a touch and go moment where we had forgotten to specify ceiling speakers for the reception rooms and, most importantly, for the bar! However, luckily we spotted it just in time and they have all now been installed. This means when the Lionesses win their next major tournament we will have an amazing space with great sound to watch it from!

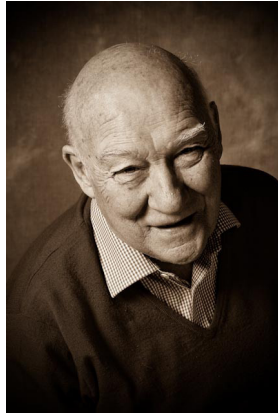
There are lots of ground workers on site now sorting all things drainage and I'm sure some of you have seen the National Grid trucks around and about. We finally pinned them down and they are removing the telegraph wires over the Walled Garden and Home Farm and laying the cables under the ground to a new substation.

Messenger are saying that they are still on track and they hope to hand the building back to us some time in October, with the Estate offices moving in between then and Christmas. That means hopefully by the next edition we will have some finished photos to show you and by next year there will be a new office for you to come and visit!



PACKINGTON NEWS

ROGER STONE 1933-2025



Some of you will recall that Roger Stone was head agent for Packington between 1963 and 1990. Thereafter, he remained a Trustee and PEEL Board member. He provided sound and wise advice over many years and was instrumental in helping the Estate recover from penalising death duties arising from family losses in 1940 and 1958. This included important negotiations on land-take for the M6 (across the north side of the Estate) in the 1960s, important sand and gravel negotiations (that led to the creation of Broadwater and Somers Fisheries), the establishment of the Packington Landfill site and the commencement of the Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club. Roger will be sadly missed by all at Packington. An obituary covering his wider life is set out below.

Roger was born on the 25th March 1933 in Alvechurch and spent his childhood at Stable Door House, on School Lane, where he planted a tree seed which now stands in excess of 80ft. He was schooled at West House, Eastborne College and was called up for National Service in the late 1950s, towards the end of obligatory military service and spent time in Cyprus, in the Royal Signals, during the Eoka Guerilla Uprising.

On return, he was employed by Cheshire Gibson & Co where he trained to be a Chartered Surveyor via a correspondence course at the College of Estate Management. In early 1960 he moved to James & Lister Lea (Bruton Knowles), and became a Partner in 1963, where he remained until he retired from the practice in the late 1990s. He consulted there for a few years before trading until his late 80s as "RV Stone Chartered Surveyor".

Roger was a keen supporter of the RICS, CAAV and the Panel of Arbitrators and was, himself, a qualified Arbitrator, specialising in agricultural rent reviews and matters arising from the Agricultural Holdings Act. He was President of the Rural Practice Division of the RICS between 1988 and 1989 and threw himself into the role.

He also served with distinction on various CLA Committees and was integral in the formation and running of the RECAP lectures held in Staffordshire.

Roger was a colourful character in every way and was a believer in the sharing of knowledge to help all surveyors improve their ability to serve their clients. He had no fear of standing up to speak, or challenge those with whom he was either in negotiation or dispute and ran both planning and compulsory purchase appeals over many years.

At James & Lister Lea, he built up the agricultural management and professional services side, serving as head agent and Clerk to a number of local estates and charities. His natural capabilities, competence and inquisitiveness, drove him forward in the pursuit of the best deal for his clients.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE GARDEN



Would you like to become
one of the team?



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING
AND JOINING THE GARDENING TEAM HERE AT
PACKINGTON, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, GET IN TOUCH BY
EMAILING
INFO@PACKINGTONESTATE.CO.UK

PACKINGTON NEWS

FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT UPDATE - JULY 2025 UPDATE

By Sam White

I find myself writing this update at the beginning of August and on a day on which it seems that the weather does not know what it is doing, and it is one of those days where you are unsure if a shirt will do or if a jumper and coat is needed!

In the past few months there has been a great deal of activity across the Estate, and I will start with an update on our Estate farms...

We are still yet to harvest our oats and wheat however we do not envisage the yields being record breaking! I will be able to provide an update in the next newsletter as to how we fared, and it will be most interesting to see how the oats perform following our decision to take a reset and re-evaluate our approach with the integration of regenerative farming techniques and methods.

Through trials and continued learning we are still finessing our cropping rotation and following this harvest we will then immediately get set on working the land to ensure that there is then a green cover during the winter months ahead of spring drilling in 2026. Our current plan is to adopt a 6-year rotation that would provide opportunities for combinable cropping, grazing of livestock, and assisting in the building of soil fertility and structure. Our current intention is:

- Years 1 to 3, spring drilled cereal crops such as oats, barley, wheat (followed by an autumn/ winter cover crop).
- Years 4 to 6, establishment of a herbal ley.

Farming is at the mercy of the weather and frustratingly it is one of the pressures that we have no control over. Earlier this year seemed to transition straight from winter to summer, and it was reported that it was the driest March in over 60 years!

The dry spring has resulted in us having to change tack regarding some aspects of the environmental provision into our farming system as part of our approved Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Agreement, which is the current DEFRA support for the agricultural sector. We had intended on a spring establishment of over 50 acres of flower rich margins and plots however, the weather thwarted our plans and as a result it was decided to leave the seed in the shed and instead look to undertake the works in the autumn (if the weather is favourable!). On the flipside our cereal headland mixes were drilled and have established well and were able to make the most of the limited days of rain and so will now provide a source of food during the winter months for farmland birds.

I have recently had an opportunity to read 'Sixty Harvests Left' by Philip Lymbery; it was a sombre and hard hitting read and highlighted the importance in having an open mindset and exploring alternative methods for food production and wider land management. I am fortunate to be involved with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and it has been interesting to hear that the train of thought by Government regarding future agricultural support is changing and now partially focusing on food security. We will see over the next few months what the future holds regarding support - ultimately Government policy dictates the nature of the landscape that we all enjoy.

PACKINGTON NEWS

FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT UPDATE - JULY 2025 UPDATE

By Sam White

Moving on to our nature restoration project...

A great amount of work has taken place over the past few months regarding 'Wild Packington'. On the ground works have taken place with the creation of new wetland scrapes and the shallow excavation of a historic paleo channel. Both will provide habitat for breeding waders and alongside this we have worked with stakeholders including the Tame Valley Wetlands Trust and also local angling societies regarding in river works to the River Blythe that will assist in improving water flow and quality.

Our English Longhorn cattle herd now totals 32 and includes nine calves (six girls and three boys) and we still have two cows that are due to calve in the next few weeks. Over the summer months they have been assisting in managing the project area through extensive grazing. They certainly do have their own characters, and the calves can be very cheeky in testing for weak points with the electric fencing!

We have the worrying time of TB testing to go through in the next couple of months and during that period we will also be fitting electronic collars that will monitor and track where the cattle are via an App based system (created and developed by a company in Norway!). I will be able to update you all on how we get on with that in my next update.

Behind the scenes we are continuing to work at the implementation plan for the project which includes the preparation of a Stewardship agreement that requires the inclusion of plans and strategies linked with:

- River restoration
- Species rich grassland
- Wood pasture
- Parkland restoration

Aspects of this work have stemmed following the preparation of the masterplan. This has also included looking at what has established on the ground since conventional farming ceased and reviewing soil analysis results to enable seed mixes to be worked up that will be suitable.

To facilitate the project stakeholder engagement has and continues to be a key aspect and we are working with private consultants and also organisations that include:

- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Tame Valley Wetlands Trust
- Environment Agency
- University of Birmingham
- Coventry University

PACKINGTON NEWS

FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT UPDATE - JULY 2025 UPDATE

By Sam White

In and amongst the farmed landscape and the land covering the nature restoration project, and the wider Estate, there are more than 600 acres of woodland that are a mix of amenity hardwood (broadleaf species such as Oak, Ash, etc) and commercial softwood plantations (conifers that include Douglas Fir, Scots Pine, etc). Through working with our forestry consultants, both the Estate Team and external contractors are working in accordance with the 20-year Forestry Management Plan (approved by the Forestry Commission). There are ongoing maintenance aspects and more substantial works and recently this has seen us start a thinning operation in a couple of woodland blocks which is being undertaken to enable natural regeneration. It is quite amazing at the size of some of the machinery that is involved in facilitating these works.

I look forward to updating you all later this year which should hopefully include an introduction to a new addition who we hope will be making an arrival at Packington in the next few weeks... Xploit the Bull!



PACKINGTON NEWS

MINUTES OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE PACKINGTON PARISHES HELD IN THE UNDERCROFT OF PACKINGTON HALL 23RD APRIL 2025

Present:	Lord Aylesford	Lord and Lady Guernsey
	Ben Gray	Sam White
	Ros Smith	Margaret Roper
	Joan and Adrian Hall	David and Libby Mander
	Reverend Peter Holliday	Reverend Jim Perryman and Nicola Perryman
	Tom and Kate Beaty	Matthew Joyce
	Aaron Taylor	Suzi and Kevin Evans
	Jennifer Hatch	Paul Brown
	A P Rogers	David and Carol Garnett
	Rita Poulson	

ACTION

1.0 MEETING – 13TH MAY 2024

1.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2024 were approved and signed by Lord James Guernsey, as a true record. They had previously been circulated within the summer edition of the Packington Parish Magazine.

1.2 Matters arising from the 13th May 2024 meeting were as follows.

1.2.1 Packington Park Cameras

The number plate recognition at the East Gate was now in operation and that if members of the Parish wished to have their number plate included, they should provide details to the Packington Estate Office.

1.2.2 Dog Fouling Signage

Sam White It was confirmed that dog fouling signs had been received and that these were at the Packington Estate and would be displayed in appropriate areas in the coming months.

2.0 PARISH PRECEPT

Ben Gray 2.1 Ben Gray confirmed that as the Parish / Church has no income, or expenditure (as such), it does not require a Precept from the Local Council, but it will make a Declaration of No Accounts for the period 2024/2025.

3.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH / SECURITY / CRIME

3.1 Fly-Tipping

3.1.1 Fly-tipping continued to be a menace across the area and the Parish, but visitors and residents should continue to report and where appropriate and safe to do so, approach perpetrators.

PACKINGTON NEWS

3.1.2 The Packington Estate WhatsApp group had been an effective means of ensuring fly-tipping activity was reported and that "Fixmystreet" had proved to be a successful web-site and responses from the Council had been positive.

3.1.3 Lord Guernsey also reminded the meeting of the "clearwaste" web-site, and encouraged those at the meeting to use this site to report fly-tipping. By way of reminder, the web-sites are:

www.fixmystreet.com

www.clearwaste.com

3.2 Coursing – Deer and Hare

3.2.1 Ben Gray confirmed that there had been one incident, from Little Packington Lane, with suspected coursers and this had been dealt with appropriately. The Estate is engaging with Constable Dickin who is based in Atherstone, regarding rural crime.

3.3 Trespass

3.3.1 Ben Gray reported that there had been a number of incidents, some of which were genuinely people venturing off the beaten track and not realising the Estate was generally private, but also an incident where some gypsy ponies had escaped from a field and the situation was resolved quickly.

3.3.2 Again, the Packington WhatsApp Group was a useful means of keeping members of the Parish informed as to any activity.

4.0 PACKINGTON ESTATE – RE-NATURING PROJECT

Sam White 4.1 Sam White reported that the re-naturing project was going well, that the base line studies had now been completed and that a Master Plan was in the process of being finalised. Once the Master Plan was complete, updates to the Parish will be provided.

4.2 Sam White confirmed that to kick-start the re-naturing programme, a number of English Longhorn Cattle had been purchased, and these were currently on the land at Brook Farm

5.0 IMPORTANT DATES

5.1 The meeting was reminded of the following dates

25 th April	Fish & Chip Quiz Night
14 th June	1940s Charity Dance
27 th June	Estate -v- Farmers Cricket Match
26 th September	Fish & Chip Quiz Night
1 st November	Estate Bonfire Night
19 th December	Carol Service followed by Social Club Xmas Quiz Night

PACKINGTON NEWS

6.0 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 **The Stables Conversion**

- 6.1.1 Ben Gray reported that the conversion of The Stables building was progressing well, despite being slightly behind programme and that it was anticipated that the space should be completed by Christmas 2025. As a result, it was likely that this would be the last Parish Meeting to be held in the Undercroft of the Hall, as there was to be some new social space for the Estate and the Parish, to be included within the first phase of the project.

6.2 **Area G**

- 6.2.1 David Mander asked what the plans were for Area G? BG informed the meeting that the Estate were effectively engaged with the Master Planning of a new country park, and that it was important that the requirements were planned well in advance to ensure that the inert soil tipping was placed in the correct locations as, once the soil was in situ, it would be difficult to move it.
- 6.2.2 BG also advised that whilst the pre-application and a planning consent were likely to happen during 2025, it would be a further 5-6 years before the inert tipping ceased and, at that point, there would be a permanent change of use.

6.3 **Estate Wide Vision**

- 6.3.1 Lord James Guernsey confirmed that later in the year the Estate would present its emerging vision document, to include the nature restoration project, regenerative farming, country park, energy park and Arden Cross to the Parish. A date for this presentation will be confirmed in due course.

- 6.4 there being no other business, the meeting closed.

Signed: Lord Guernsey
Lord James Guernsey

Date: 15 May 2025 | 5:31 PM BST

RECOMMENDATIONS

IF ANYONE HAS ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEY'D LIKE TO ADD WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU,
(GEORGIE@PACKINGTONESTATE.CO.UK).

FILMS



Thank you to Pete Fortey for his recommendation. Based on a true story about opening a restaurant with actual Italian grandmothers!



Another Disney classic with Moana heading out on a new adventure. The kids loved it and said it was as good as the first!



Carey Mulligan stars in this quirky comedy about two washed-up musicians reuniting for a bizarre island gig that rekindles old flames and absurd misunderstandings.

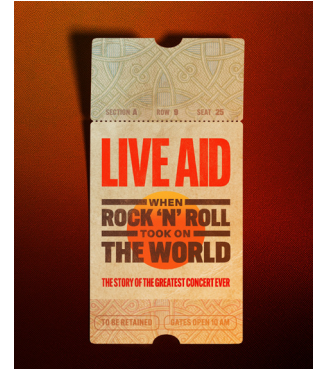
T.V.



A brash but brilliant cop becomes head of a new police department, where he leads an unlikely team of misfits in solving Edinburgh's cold cases.

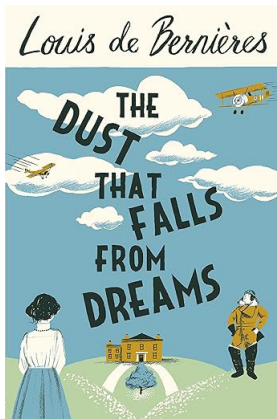


Tom Hardy at his best! In gritty South London, rival gangs collide unleashing chaos, loyalty, and violence in this intense crime thriller.

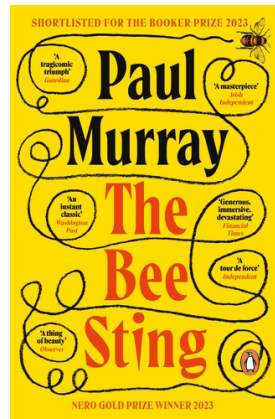


An amazing tribute to the 1985 global concert that united music's biggest stars, raised millions for famine relief, and changed the face of charity forever.

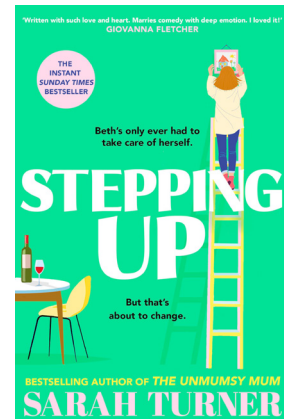
BOOKS



The first in a trilogy - amid the upheaval of WWI, a spirited young woman and her friends navigate love, loss, and hope in this sweeping, romantic historical epic.



A wealthy Irish family faces unravelling secrets, climate anxiety, and social downfall in this darkly comic, tender saga of redemption, guilt, and human fragility.



A great holiday book! When life throws her a curve ball, a reluctant Beth discovers strength, purpose, and unexpected joy in this warm, witty story of second chances and self-discovery.



PETE'S PAGES!



"FOR THE OLDER GENERATION"

When I die, I want my last few words to be, I've left £87,000 under the.....

Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy while you can.

I've managed to complete the first of my bucket list, I bought a bucket.

Why are the people who tell you to calm down, always the ones who put your blood pressure up in the first place.

When I get old, I don't want people to say "That sweet old man", I want them to say "OMG! What's that crazy man up to now?"

At my age, getting lucky is finding my car in the car park.

It's OK to talk to yourself, but when you ask yourself to repeat what you just said, then you have a problem.

I spent time with my family today, They seem nice people.

I've enjoyed waking up and not having to go to work, so I do it three or four times a day.





PETE'S PAGES!



SAYINGS FROM DIFFERENT FAMOUS PEOPLE / CELEBRITIES

"When I wake up in the morning, I reach for the morning newspaper and read the obituary page, if I'm not on it, I get up." Benjamin Franklin

"Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever." Walt Disney

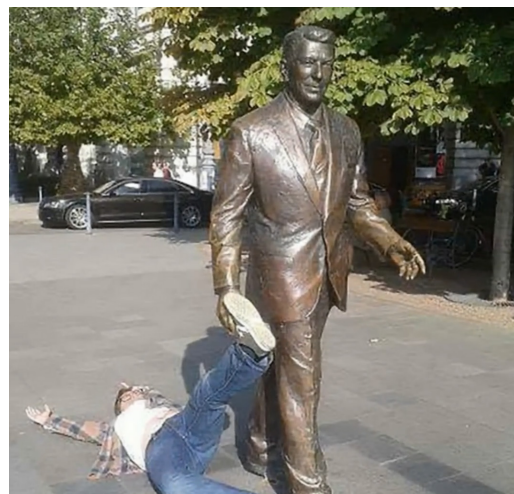
"I'm often asked 'What would you want people to say about you in 100 years from now?' I want them to say, 'Don't she still look good for her age?'" Dolly Parton

"Looking fifty is great if your sixty" Joan Rivers

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened" Mary Twain

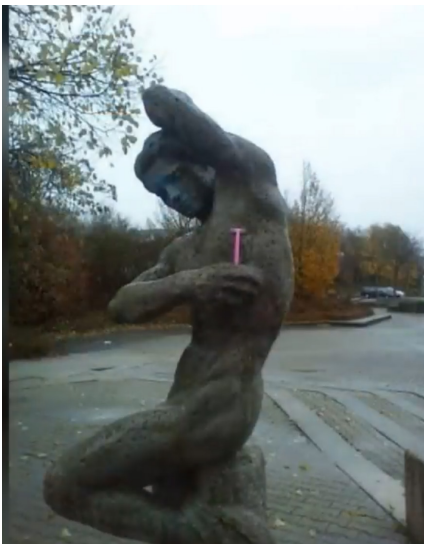
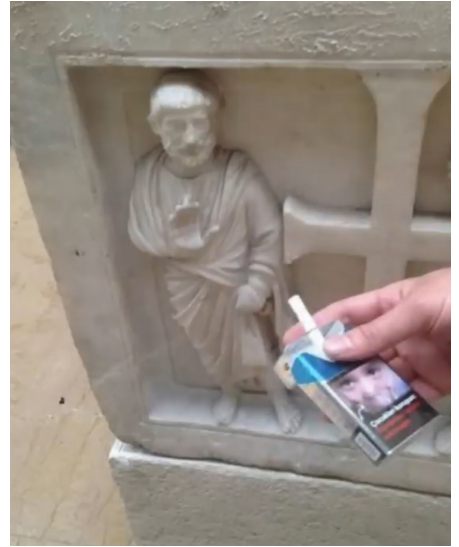
"Old age isn't too bad when you consider the alternative" Maurice Chevalier

"There is only one cure for grey hair / baldness, invented by a Frenchman, it's called the guillotine" P.G. Wodehouse





PETE'S PAGES!



THE SOCIAL CLUB NEWS



Once again we've had a series of brilliant Social Club events. Andrew Longfield hosted an evening of 1940s dancing for Dementia UK in memory of his father and long-standing member of the Packington community, Michael Longfield. The evening was a big success with £350 raised for Dementia charities.



THE SOCIAL CLUB NEWS



Our annual Estate vs Farmers cricket match was not cancelled by the weather this year and we had a brilliant turn out. Both teams became a wonderful mix of farmers, estate staff, tenants and a lot of the new generation too!

Our scorers Ros Smith and Kate Beaty did an incredible job at trying to work out who everyone was and names ranged from small boy to even smaller boy, and from green top to red shorts! In the end it didn't seem to have mattered as believe it or not the final score was a draw! We were very grateful to the runners due to a couple of injuries being sustained by the only *slightly* older generation but as always it was a great evening and lovely to catch up with everyone.

Next up is the brilliant Fish & Chip Quiz Night on Friday 26th September from 7.30pm. Then before you know it will be November and we have our Estate Bonfire Night on Saturday 1st November. More information to follow shortly so keep an eye on your emails with details on how to book your tickets. Finally for 2025 we will be having the Carol Service again followed by the Social Club Christmas Quiz Night on Friday 19th December. It feels a long way off now but get the dates in your diary!

If you haven't already, don't forget to join the Packington Hall Social Club Facebook Group. Jay does a brilliant job of keeping it up to date and it is the best place to find out when The Social Club is opening for drinks nights so please do join it for the quickest place to get all the up to date information.



SOCIAL CLUB DATES

Friday 26th September

Fish & Chip Quiz Night - Undercroft from 7.30pm

Saturday 1st November

Estate Bonfire Night - 5.30pm bonfire / 7pm fireworks

Friday 19th December

Carol Service (6pm) followed by Social Club Xmas Quiz Night (7.30pm)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Social Club Fish & Chips



*Friday 26th September
From 7.30pm*

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM PAUL BROWN
£10 PER ADULT / £5 PER CHILD
(BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE ESTATE AND FARMERS INVITE YOU TO THE
2025
PACKINGTON PARISH HARVEST SUPPER
AT
PACKINGTON HALL**

**THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER
7.30 PM**

TICKETS £15.00 EACH

**HOG ROAST
DRINKS PROVIDED BY THE ESTATE
RAFFLE
SOME FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT!**

If you would like tickets, please email Lady Guernsey at georgie@packingtonestate.co.uk indicating the following:

1. How many tickets you would like
2. Names of guests attending
3. Any dietary requirements
4. If you are kindly able to provide an Apple Pie

**PLEASE REPLY BY WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER
AT THE LATEST!**

PAYMENT DETAILS ARE :
PACKINGTON ESTATE ENTERPRISES LTD
LLOYDS BANK
SORT CODE: 30-00-06
ACC NO: 00522275
(PLEASE USE SURNAME/HARVEST AS REFERENCE)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PACKINGTON ESTATE BONFIRE NIGHT

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

BONFIRE LIT @ 5.30PM

FIREWORKS @ 7PM

GET THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!
LINK WITH TICKET INFORMATION
COMING SOON!



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MONDAY – DORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

TIME	CLASS	PRICE
12:30 – 13:15	ZUMBA GOLD (Active Older Clients)	£6
13:30 – 14:30	PILATES (Multi-Level)	COURSE

TUESDAY – DOWNING HALL, KNOWLE

TIME	CLASS	PRICE
9:00 – 10:00	PILATES (Multi-Level)	COURSE

WEDNESDAY – DORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

TIME	CLASS	PRICE
9:00 – 9:45	ZUMBA	£6
10:15 – 11:00	ZUMBA GOLD (Active Older Clients)	£6
11:30 – 12:15	ZUMBA GOLD (Lower Intensity)	£6

THURSDAY – ST PHILIPS CHURCH CENTRE

TIME	CLASS	PRICE
11:00 – 11:45	ZUMBA GOLD (Active Older Clients)	£6

FRIDAY – LAPWORTH VILLAGE HALL

TIME	CLASS	PRICE
9:00 – 9:45	ZUMBA	£6

ONLINE CLASSES

DAY	TIME	CLASS	PRICE
WEDNESDAY	18:30 – 19:15	PILATES	COURSE
WEEKDAYS	07:00 – 07:15	FIT IN 15	COURSE

FIT IN 15 – Join on Zoom or Private Fb Group most weekday mornings – Live at 7am or on demand

Please contact Kor Health & Fitness for dates and cost of courses

ADVERTISEMENTS

Atelier Mafette

Created by one of our tenants, Marie-Fulvie Rue, Atelier Mafette is a small, local business that creates wooden animal silhouettes to slip between books and animate your bookcase in an original and fun way! The perfect gift for Christmas, visit her site on Etsy for more images and prices - [AtelierMafette.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/AtelierMafette).



ADVERTISEMENTS

Zoe and Richard Wild have been tenants of the estate for 20 years and have started up a firewood venture from little Packington. They are selling best quality seasoned firewood in 1.2 cubic metre loads, free tipped at your property, with free delivery for residents of the Estate. The wood is sustainably sourced from forestry thinning and is less than 18% moisture. Small or large loads welcomed. It's easy to order and pay online at www.ardenforestfirewood.com and Richard and Zoe will be in touch to arrange a convenient time to deliver. Telephone 01676 493099. Thanks for supporting a local business!

Arden Forest FIREWOOD

Little Packington

Best quality seasoned split firewood,
for wood burners and open fires,
delivered free within 10 miles
of Meriden Green

Taking orders now for
weekend deliveries

Simple and easy
–order and pay online at
www.ardenforestfirewood.com

**Our friendly team will be in touch
to arrange delivery or call:**

01676 493099

100% British timber locally sourced from forestry thinnings.
All harvested trees are re stocked for sustainability and timber
has been seasoned for a minimum of 2 years. Ready to burn
with less than 18% moisture content.



Cruse
Bereavement
Support

Are you a man finding grief difficult?

Why not attend one of our
free Grief Over Breakfast
meetings.

We meet on the last Friday
of the month at Anya Court
care home at 8am until 9am.
CV22 6JA We have breakfast
and talk freely about how we
feel about loss and Grief.

Please contact
Simon.Carr@cruse.org.uk to book
your place or telephone/text
07508 853359. You are most
welcome.



Grief can be overwhelming, you don't have to deal with it alone.

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CW Mind Service Launch!



Safe Haven Warwickshire

• Safe Haven provides an out of hours mental health support service to people across Warwickshire

• Wellbeing practitioners are on hand each evening to offer support and signposting

• Open: 6pm-11pm every Thursday to Sunday

 mind | Coventry and
for better mental health Warwickshire

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The Safe Haven is a service
for people who...

Feel as though they
are unable to cope

May not know
where to start
looking for help

Need out of
hours mental
health support

Wellbeing practitioners will be
available via phone, video link,
text message or email.

Contact the team in the following
ways:

T: 02477 714554

M: 07970 042270

E: safehaven@cwmind.org.uk

The Safe Haven Team will
provide reassuring support to
those finding life difficult.

Wellbeing practitioners will guide
towards creating coping
strategies which support the self
management of mental health
and emotional wellbeing