

Packington Men's Group (PMG)



Major news as 2007 draws to a close - after more than 15 years leading The Packington Men's Group, our **founder and chairman, Rick Melville, has decided to retire.**

Rick started the Men's Group in 1992. He encouraged men associated with the village to join together for social occasions and fellowship, and every month since has instigated an event. With help from members, his guiding hand led us on outside visits, to breweries, car factories, and museums, as well as to airports, quarries, brick-works and many other fascinating venues. He organised many entertaining guest speakers, on diverse topics such as the Lifeboat service, Mental Health, Stanley Holloway, and even Artificial Insemination, during which members have shared the hospitality of each others' homes. We have also had summer open-air activities, and Group meals-out in the form of dinners or breakfasts, often with thought-provoking entertainment.

Members are all conscious of the great debt of gratitude we owe to our founder for those 15-plus great years in which he willingly gave of his energy and enthusiasm. **Rick, from deep in all our hearts, the Packington Men's Group wishes you well for your retirement, and thanks you for a fine job well done.**

In December we enjoyed our annual pre-Christmas party at the home of Lesley and John Birtwistle, for whose generous hospitality we were all very grateful. We played "Call My Bluff" to great effect, thanks to the detailed written preparation by Peter Cooper. As usual, our home-made buffet meal, sourced by members themselves, went down very well. Feasted and lubricated, our carol-singing, with professional-quality piano accompaniment by Chris Miles, made a very enjoyable start to the festive season.

The committee aim to continue in 2008 with the successful pattern of

meetings set by Rick. There were already two small changes afoot for the New year 2008 in response to the wishes of our members, in particular, dates of meetings; and the monthly subscription.

Dates of Meetings. Members may in the past have had some doubt about the dates of a meeting. In 2008 we hope with a small change to resolve this by always using the **Second Thursday of each month.**

So in **January 2008**, on the second Thursday of the month - **Thursday 10th January 2008, at 7.30pm**, we visit the **Ashby Fire Station** for a talk and demonstration by **Peter Sherwin, Crew Manager**, about **Fire Prevention and Safety**. Perhaps the evening may help us understand how vital is Fire Safety, for all of us. Cars will leave the Village Hall at 7.15pm. Please check with Robert on 411673 if you need a lift or would like to offer a lift to others.

For the **subscription**, we have been asked to avoid the embarrassing difficulties of collecting small sums monthly, when members may have no small change, by introducing a simple annual payment. So our subscription is now **REDUCED** from £1.50 to just **£1.00 per month, payable annually in January**. Please arrange for your 2008 £12 to pass directly to our treasurer Wally Instrall, tel 416786.

Members' views, and new members, are always welcomed - please contact one of the committee:

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Date for your diary: Thursday 14th February Do tell your Valentine you will be otherwise "engaged" that night!