

Doddington DIARY



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April
2026

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Dear Residents of Doddington

Congratulations to Rob and Tina for winning a barrow load of goodies, it looks like you will be having a good Easter!

There is going to be lots to do over the Easter weekend, so let's hope that the weather remembers it's Spring, and is kind. The ever popular Easter Egg Hunt will be happening at the Pavilion on Good Friday, so do be there in good time, as once the eggs have gone they've gone! The Pavilion then hosts another fun event in the evening, Sip and Paint with the Guides. This time they are painting Spring Flowers. If a drop of Gin is more your thing, get your tickets for the Christmas Lights taster evening in May!

Last month we published a picture from April 1926 of Doddington Choral Society. David Edwards explains the story of this historical event on page 38 and it will also be remembered during the 10.30am service on Easter Sunday in St Mary's Church, with a rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus being sung during communion.

Looking ahead, it's never too early to start thinking about your scarecrows and floats for the Carnival, entries for the Village Show (this year's schedule can be found on the Diary website under "Whats On") and something extra this year, the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community to be held in the church in October, so no shortage of creative opportunities!

Remember, The Diary is a great way to share your activities, we just ask for you to get your information to us by the 15th of the month.

From Sally, the Editor

Doddington Diary Deadlines and Contact Details

Doddington Diary website: www.doddingtondiary.co.uk

Contributions: Editorials and payments to be received by the 15th of each month

Contact us by Email: doddingtondiary@gmail.com

Contact us by Post: 29 Bevills Close, Doddington. PE15 OTT

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A Message from the Rector

One of the privileges of being a Rector is being present for people as they grieve loved ones. People in the Fens have a strong attachment to their parish churches. For generations families have come to church for christenings, weddings and funerals. In fact, the church is often fuller at a funeral than it is on a Sunday. Church feels as though it's the right place to be when we honour those we have loved and lost.

A funeral is time to think back over someone's life and try and work out what was the real heart of a person. I remember after my own mother died, we got together as a family and pieced together bits of her life, both the joyful and the difficult parts, and perhaps only really got a better understanding of who she was after she died, rather than when she was alive.

Of course, it's hard to know what happens when we die. We like to think that the person we have loved and lost is still with us in some way. We might express this by saying she is a star in the sky, or an angel, or a snowflake in the wind.

As Christians we believe that death is not the end, and that we will see our loved ones again. This is because Jesus Christ rose from the dead three days after he was crucified. This is what we celebrate at Easter - Christ's resurrection. Those who receive the gift of faith in Christ believe that those who have died will be resurrected in the future, and we will all be reunited.

Faith can feel elusive. If you want God to give you the gift of faith, I find the best way is simply to ask God to give it to you. 'Lord, give me faith in you.'

On 1st November we will be inviting everyone who has had a funeral in one of the Six Fen Churches this past year to a service of thanksgiving and remembrance, when you can light a candle for your loved one. We will read out the names of those who have passed away. In fact, everyone is welcome, even if you haven't experienced a funeral in the last year, because we all know that grief lasts years, not months. I pray that the hope of the resurrection will help us grieve those we have loved and lost.

Canon Mark Collinson, Rector of the Six Fen Churches
Email mark@sixfenchurches.org or text 07874847157.



St Mary's Church Services for APRIL

Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)

6.30 pm Agape Meal, Church Rooms, Doddington

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

2.00 pm Stations of the Cross, Christchurch

2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross, Wimblington



Saturday 4th April (Easter Saturday)

10.30 am Wild Church, Manea

Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday)

9.30 am Breakfast Church, Wimblington

10.30 am Holy Communion, Doddington

10.30 am Holy Communion by Extension, Christchurch

3.00 pm Holy Communion, Welney

Sunday 12th April

10.30 am Morning Prayer, Wimblington

10.30 am Holy Communion, Manea

3.00 pm Holy Communion, Benwick

Tuesday 14th April

1.30 pm Cafe Church, Church Rooms, Doddington

Sunday 19th April

10.30 am Morning Prayer, Doddington

10.30 am Holy Communion, Christchurch

4.00 pm Deanery Confirmation Service -
St Peter's Church, March with Bishop Dagmar

Sunday 26th April

10.30 am Morning Prayer, Manea

10.30 am Holy Communion, Wimblington

3.00 pm Holy Communion, Welney

*Sunday 15th March was **Mothering Sunday**, a day for remembering, acknowledging and celebrating, not only our birth mothers, but all of the people in our lives who take on the mothering role, including Jesus. In line with tradition, all the "mothers" received a gift of flowers.*



Parish Council Report

Annual Parish Assembly: This year's Annual Parish Assembly is taking place on Thursday April 30th 2026 in the Methodist Hall from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. It is an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been undertaking during the last year and to ask questions or raise items that involve the village. Other village organisations may also be invited to give an update on their activities. Light refreshments will be available.

Community Grants: The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, is making available small grants (up to £500) to registered, exempt or excepted charities, village organisations, halls, councils, schools, clubs, sports clubs and voluntary groups and committees serving beneficiaries within the parish boundary of Doddington. If you think that your club, organisation or group could make use of a small grant then please contact the Parish Council Clerk on clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk for an application form.

Clerk to Doddington Parish Council - VACANCY: The current Clerk to Doddington Parish Council undertakes the combined duties of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. The Parish Council has agreed to split those duties between two people. The current clerk is retaining the Responsible Financial Officer role and therefore we are seeking someone to take on the administrative duties of Clerk to the Parish Council.

This is a part time position of 12 hours per week and candidates should possess strong administrative skills including arranging Council meetings, minute taking and liaison with contractors over the maintenance of the Council's assets. The Clerk to the Council will be the Proper Officer of the Council and as such is under a statutory duty to carry out all functions required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer.

To obtain further details, including how to apply for the position, please initially contact the existing Clerk before 14th April 2026 by telephone on 01354 680892 or email clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Parish Council's website can be viewed at www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk where there is also a contact page for the Clerk of the Parish Council – office hours are usually Monday to Thursday 9.30-12.30 (Outside of statutory holidays) You can also contact the Chair on 01354 740323 or 07787 631153 or via email at chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Methodist Church

Sunday 12th April : 2.30pm : Rev Lorna Vincent
A Celebration of Easter with Holy Communion
EVERYONE WELCOME



Monday: Future Stars: 4.30pm - 8.00pm (term time only)

Tuesday: Under 5s: 10.00am - 11.30am (Mothers and Toddlers)

Wednesday: Auction: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Thursday: No events

Friday: Under 5s: 10.00am - 11.30am (Mothers and Toddlers)

The church email address for enquiries is:
Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com

For more information or bookings
please contact Elaine Thornton on 07778 284 749



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of

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8.9.1956 - 10.3.2026



Girlguiding



The Rainbows have recently started an exciting challenge to help protect wildlife by taking part in The Wildlife Trust's Hedgehog Walk. The Hedgehog Walk is a fundraising challenge designed especially for young children, encouraging them to walk 3km- the same distance a hedgehog can travel in a single night while searching for food. Sadly, hedgehog numbers have declined in recent years, and the challenge helps raise both funds and awareness to support conservation work.

Our Rainbows have taken this challenge very seriously! Over the next few meetings, the girls will be walking 3km and, being very ambitious, they are hoping to complete the distance multiple times to raise as much money as possible for the Wildlife Trust.

Along the way we have also been having lots of fun activities linked to hedgehogs and nature. The girls have been collecting leaves to create hedgehog pictures and even decorating their own hedgehog cakes.

As well as helping a fantastic cause, the challenge also links to the girls' Make Change badge, which empowers them to create positive change through local action, campaigning and fundraising.



If anyone would like to donate to the cause, please use this QR code

At Brownies we took a step back in time; when I was in Brownies we had a brown purse on our belts and were expected to carry certain items so we were always ready "to lend a hand". We had some challenges to see if they could work out the best uses for plasters, safety pins, handkerchief, 10p for the phone, notepad and pencil, there were some interesting ideas and a lesson on phone boxes!

Our Brownies had a trip to Tesco's. They had a budget and were asked to go around the store to choose items to give someone a meal. Choices were made and each Brownie had a go at scanning their shopping through the till – their favourite bit! Their shopping was all donated to the food bank. Thank you to Kelly for looking after us all in store, the girls had a great evening.



Brownies have started their Crafts badge. For Easter they have used papier-mache to make an Easter nest. A blown up balloon was covered with papier-mache, once dry, the balloon was removed and a hole was cut in the side. The

papier-mache was then decorated (with an Easter theme) and a nest of shredded paper with eggs and chicks placed inside.

The Guides are completing an Animal Awareness badge, in work towards this, we headed out on a dark walk to the Pocket Park to learn about nocturnal animals. During the walk they discovered how bats communicate using echoes to find their way. Of course, the evening also included some fun hiding games in the dark which the girls thoroughly enjoyed.

For Mother's Day, the Guides also got creative in the kitchen, making delicious Oreo and Jammy Dodger fudge which they packaged in hand decorated boxes as thoughtful gifts.

Girlguiding
Doddington

Sip & Paint Evening

Join us to paint
your very own
Spring Flowers
@ The Pavillion, Benwick Rd, Doddington

Guided painting session
No experience necessary
Painting materials supplied
Please bring your own drinks
Snacks provided

Cost: **£15.00**

**Friday
3rd April
7.00pm**

The girls were also lucky enough to visit Sigma Vets for a tour of the veterinary surgery. The visit gave them a fascinating look behind the scenes at how vets care for animals, and the girls asked lots of great questions about the different jobs involved in looking after pets. A big thank you to Sigma Vets for welcoming the Guides and showing them around.

If you are interested in joining or volunteering with any of our units, or would like to find out more about us, we would love to hear from you. Rainbows are 4-7 years old, Brownies are 7-10 years old, Guides are 10-14 years and any volunteer can be aged 14 + (Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers are welcomed!).

Please contact Abbey on
abbeycater@hotmail.co.uk. www.girlguiding.org.uk



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A man in a dark suit and tie is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the right. Overlaid on the image is a large, glowing blue padlock graphic. The background is dark with light blue circuit-like patterns and a large, faint circular graphic on the left.

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Who Really Knows What You Want?

Many people take the important step of making a Will, but few realise that it doesn't always tell the whole story. A Will sets out the legal framework for distributing your estate, but it often leaves unanswered questions about the thinking behind your decisions.



This is where a LETTER OF WISHES can make a powerful difference.

A Letter of Wishes allows you to guide your executors or trustees, explain the reasoning behind your choices, and provide clarity for the people who will one day carry out your wishes. It can also help prevent misunderstandings between family members during what may already be a difficult time.

Scan the QR code to read the full article and find out what to look for and how a little planning today can protect your loved ones tomorrow.

Regards,

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A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community



You will remember that last month, we announced that over the weekend of 2nd-4th October, we will be holding a combined flower and harvest festival, at St Mary's Church.

We are calling this a Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community and we would love for you to be involved. Over the coming weeks, the weekend will take shape, but there will certainly be lots of flowers and decorations, music and services plus plenty of tea, cake and chat!

Your group or organisation, or even individuals may like to start thinking about what you would like to celebrate and how you might do this with flowers! If your talents lie elsewhere, we would love to hear from you too as we will also need some "helping hands" for all sorts of jobs (many we probably haven't even thought about yet!) including making the tea!

We are delighted to say that the Upwood Ukuleles will be our entertainment on the Saturday evening. They play a whole range of ukuleles, even kazoos and percussion instruments. Audience participation is encouraged, so warm up your vocal chords ready to join in with songs ranging from George Formby classics, through 1960s novelty numbers, to current chart hits.

Watch out for more details next month !!!

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Neighbourhood Plan Group

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Consultation Open Events and has taken the time to provide feedback.

The documents can still be seen on the Doddington Parish Council website under "Neighbourhood Plan"

<https://doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/doddington-neighbourhood-plan/>

The Group will now consider all the comments received from residents and stakeholders before issuing the next draft. We will keep you updated with progress.



For more information, please contact: Tel: 07815 462796
or cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Thank you to everyone who joined us at the recent Carnival Pub Quiz at The Three Tuns. The pub was packed and the atmosphere was fantastic, with teams battling it out over a great set of questions by our quiz-master extraordinaire, and also our very own Carnival Chair, Adam 'The-Carnival-Champion' Rush! And a big congratulations to the winning team, the brilliantly named "Thicky Thicky Dum Dums", who claimed the top spot on the night and fought off strong competition!



The evening also featured the draw for our Ultimate Easter Barrow raffle, worth over £380 full of prizes sponsored by our many friends from around the village, Doddington Street Pride, OneStop Doddington, Tesco Superstores and Greggs.

The lucky winners were Tina and Rob from The Three Tuns, who took home a wheelbarrow packed with food, drinks and Easter treats. Luckily for us, the wheelbarrow was already there, so saved us a delivery trip!! We're sure it will all come in very handy over the Easter weekend!

Thanks to the generosity and support of everyone who attended, bought raffle tickets, or donated items to the barrow, the evening raised an incredible £550 towards Doddington Carnival 2026. Also thank you to The Three Tuns for hosting the event and to our Official Photographer, Roger Newark from March Camera Club for taking some 'action photos' of our teams during mid-concentration!

Preparations are already underway for Carnival Day 2026! One of the first events on the calendar will be the ever-popular Scarecrow Competition, which will once again see creative displays popping up around the village. This year's Carnival theme is "Celebrations", so we're looking forward to seeing plenty of imaginative scarecrows appearing in gardens across Doddington. AND this is the first year that we've split the Scarecrows competition into two groups, Households and Community Groups. This means that if you're entering in the Households section, the judges will be assessing your scarecrows against other Household entries, and not against the scale and might of the Scouts, Guides or Lion's Den, as they'll be battling it out together!

More details about the Scarecrow competition are on our website: www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk or Email us on info@doddingtoncarnival.co.uk

Women's Institute

Members and one visitor were welcomed to the March meeting and “Jerusalem” was sung.



As the W.I. Year has been changed so that all branches start in April each year, Sally Shortland read out short Annual Reports of events since our last AGM. Judith Cornwall gave out voting slips and Sally Shortland was confirmed as President for another year.

Elaine Stratford gave out notices of upcoming events in the Federation and Gemma Watts had clipboards available to sign up to any of interest. The Plant and Cake Sale has been arranged for Saturday 16th May at the Methodist Church Hall.

The speaker, Alison McCreery from MAGPAS, gave a talk and demonstration of Community CPR. She first explained what MAGPAS stood for :- Mid Anglia G.P. Accident Service. It was started in 1971 when conditions were very different and very limited compared to the present day. In 1971 an ambulance took the patient to hospital only but nowadays the paramedics and doctors go to the patient and start treatment straight away. 40% of calls are for cardiac arrest and there is only 1 in 10 survival. If everyone could do CPR this could keep the patient alive until help arrives. The CPR must start immediately as there



are only 6 minutes before death. Alison brought along some dummies and most members practised CPR. Elaine thanked Alison for her information and hoped we could help if the opportunity arises and we could all save a life.

Anthea Hart and Chris Oakes served refreshments.

The competition was to see how many words could be made from “MAGPAS HELICOPTER”. There were five entrants and Carol Turner scored 20 points with 178 words. The raffle then took place.

Next month will have Lorraine Hand dressed as “Miss Havisham” talking about Charles Dickens. The competition will be for a decorated hat and the Subscriptions will be due. The meeting ended with the National Anthem.

For more information about the W.I. Contact Elaine Stratford (tel. 462057) or elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk

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Horticultural Society

Thank you to everyone who supported the 3rd Doddington Scone Off on 14th March . It was a great event, and the quality and variety of the entries was fantastic.



Huge congratulations to Best in Show Winners; Adult Section was Jackie Newark and Children's Section was Willow Lee.

It was lovely to catch up with so many friends for a cup of tea and a scone, and the event raised much needed funds towards the Summer Village Show.

The first batch of show schedules were at the Scone Off, and they are now readily available around the village and on the Doddington Diary website Events page.



Please start to plan your entries and keep the afternoon of **Saturday 25th July** free – it's your show in your village and we rely on your support to keep it going.

We have classes for fruit, flowers, vegetables, home baking, preserves, art, crafts, photography and special classes for children – something for everyone!

If you don't want to enter the competitions this time, just come along for a fun afternoon at the Benwick Road Pavilion and Recreation Field from 12.30. We will have a dog show, classic cars, artisan stalls, food and drink and a visit from the falconry centre.

There is still space for any interested groups or organisations to have a stall or showcase their activities – please email doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com

In the evening the marquee will transform for a Bingo Night. Lots of prizes to be won. You can bring your own drinks and picnic supper.

In last month's diary we reported on the rising costs of putting on the show. Things that are beyond our control including the marquee, insurance, first aid, engraving etc.

The committee is constantly looking for funding opportunities, but we are very grateful to everyone who responded to last month's report and have already been in touch and generously donated.

If you would like to join our committee or volunteer a few hours around show day, please get in touch. For all the latest news, follow us on Facebook "Doddington Village Summer Show" Phone: Ruth Hopkins – 07815 462796 or email:

doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com

We have already had several residents sign up as a "**Friend of the Village Show**" for a minimum donation of £20 per year. (These will all be acknowledged on show day).

If you would like to become a Friend of the Village Show, please contact us to arrange payment:

doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com

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Croquet

Another month and we will be playing croquet again, which I am sure will be a welcome day for both our players and anybody else considering playing with us. Our start date is provisionally Thursday 7th May, but if weather conditions and the lawn allow this could be brought forward to Thursday April 30th. Players already on our list will be notified nearer the time so please keep an eye on your emails.



Anybody who would like to know more can contact us on croquet@fieldsendwater.co.uk or telephone Duncan on 07932122235 or Vicky on 07769652449.

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Moving On

Cambridgeshire Alzheimer's Society is proud to offer carers who are facing the difficult

choice of moving a loved one with a diagnosis of dementia into care, the opportunity to join our "Moving On" group. This specialist peer support group meets every two weeks and looks at every aspect of this difficult journey, from choosing a home and who pays for it, building relationships with the care home, coming to terms with no longer being the sole carer, and looks at helping carers to build a future.



If you are facing this difficult journey and would like to join our Moving On group, please email cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk or contact us on 01223 620962

I am writing to the Diary, to share my recent experience of a SCAM, in the hope that it might save others from a similar fate.



I thought I was reasonably well informed and alert and would spot a suspicious email. Unfortunately I was not as sharp as I thought I was and it cost me £250 to find this out the hard way.

The fraud experts at my bank shared these 6 tips to keep me safe, all of which I knew, but I was still caught. So here are some tips from me - every day life caught me out!

Be alert to people pretending to be someone else. Fraudsters can make their calls, emails or messages look like they are from someone else, like your bank or a family member. They can make a fake text appear in the same thread as genuine texts. Call back using a phone number you know is genuine, like one on their website. ***I was contacted via a genuine email I recognised from a friend. (I later discovered that this friend had received a series of texts from his "email provider" asking him to change his log-in details, which eventually he did ... ANOTHER SCAM)***

Don't trust all contact. Fraudsters pretend to be a bank, the police, or any trusted business or person. They ask you to move your money to keep it safe or to help an undercover investigation. They'll even make out that they'll get back your money lost to fraud. These are scams. Call your bank using a phone number on their website if in any doubt. ***The email I received ... said my friend had laryngitis and couldn't phone me (my friend indeed had recently suffered from a cough!), could I help order a gift card as he was having trouble doing it (of course I can help ... that's not a problem!)***

Don't share any passwords or security codes with anyone. We send you one-off codes when you make payments (called 'One Time Passcodes' or 'OTP's). Never share these codes with another person, not even with us. ***This wasn't happening as I was simply ordering a gift card from my own Amazon account, with my own bank card.***

Double check who you are paying. Look for reviews. Check online to find proof they can give you what they say. Compare prices from other places. A great deal may be too good to be true. ***Again no problem, I knew who I was paying.***

Don't allow anyone access to your computer or devices. Fraudsters ask you to click on a link or ask you to download an app. This will give them access to everything on that device. ***Again no problem, this wasn't happening.***

Get advice and help. Roughly half of fraud victims get advice from Victim Support. People that get advice are much less likely to suffer fraud again. Call them on **0808 168 9111**. ***By the time I contacted them ... it was too late!***

With the benefit of hindsight, there were lots of "red flags". I was **busy** preparing lunch when the email arrived, I **CAN'T TALK TO YOU**, good for me because I was busy and the request seemed simple enough. I emailed back saying of course I would help, how much do you want on the Gift Card. Even when I was told **£250**, although a bit surprised, not necessarily unusual for this particular friend. On my first attempt, my credit card **refused the payment**. I then used a different card, this payment was **also refused**. I emailed "my friend" who explained the **URGENCY**, saying I could pop to the **shop** to buy one but I don't have to bring it, just **send the PIN** number! A bit cheeky I think, I haven't got time for that, I'll try one more time, this time the **bank sent me a message** to ask if I was trying to make a purchase, to which of course I reply Yes, so the transaction was completed and job done. I didn't get a confirmation email from Amazon straight away, only then did I called my friend. I wasn't even alerted when he answered the phone with a clear voice, the penny only dropped when he asked what I was talking about!!

THINGS I WISH I KNEW THEN ... although I contacted Amazon straight away, the first contact said that it would be sorted and I would get my money back. I should have gone straight into my order and clicked on SEND AGAIN, I could have changed the email address and received another card, which would have cancelled the first one (I would at least have the card to use myself). By the time I learned this several hours later, the card had been cashed and I was too late.

The credit card company and my bank were more suspicious of the transaction than I was, which is why they refused the payment. The fraud department at my credit card company called me to discuss the refused payment as it happens all the time, he even told me he had received a similar email himself that week from "his mother".!

I didn't get the money back because I did authorise the payment. So, to all of my friends, this doesn't mean that I am not willing to help if I can, but I shall be calling to double check you really need my help first - even if you have laryngitis!

Doddington Recreation Committee

A reminder that our Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Good Friday 3rd April at the Recreation Ground. It's always a lovely event for families, with children searching for eggs to exchange for a chocolate treat, alongside a range of stalls and activities. Refreshments will be available, including bacon rolls and drinks. Please remember this is a cash only event, and once the eggs are gone, they're gone, so do come along early.

Our next Prize Bingo will be held on Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Pavilion . It has been really popular in recent months, and we would like to thank everyone who has come along and supported us – it is very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming both regulars and new faces for another enjoyable evening.



With the better weather on the way, the Pavilion is the ideal venue for children's parties. With direct access to the outdoor space and field, it's perfect for games and activities. If you are planning a party, please do get in touch to check availability and for further details.

Contact us: Email. doddingtonrec@gmail.co.uk.

What's App/Text/Phone. 07541 277119.

To find us on Facebook search: 'Doddington Recreation Committee'.

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(Due to meetings etc, if you are making a special journey please call to ensure the office is open)



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1st Doddington Scout Group



During 2026 three sections of the Scouting family are celebrating big birthdays. The newest section Squirrels is 5, Beavers is 40 and Cubs is 110, so over 250,000 young people and volunteers up and down the country will be celebrating these milestones with their own Scout Groups.

Our Cub Packs kicked off the birthday year by having a party during their camp in early March, making decorations and food and playing some party games of old and watching a movie. A fab time was had by all. Our Squirrels picked up the mantle at the end of the month when they held their 5th Birthday party during their sleepover. Don't worry the Beavers won't miss out, they will be celebrating being 40 a little later in the year.

As well as all this partying all sections have had a busy few weeks following the half term break.

Squirrels – they visited Chatteris Library to celebrate World Book Day. They were introduced to the library and explored it with our adult volunteers, selecting books and sitting down to read them together. They also made a character which they then made up a story about and shared it with the other Squirrels. They would like to say a huge thank you to all at the library for a really fun session. They have also learnt all about Chinese New Year and the Year of the Fire Horse, making hobby horses and hand-print horses.

Beavers – so, who loves a game of Chinese Whispers, our Beavers certainly did. I have never known a message finish how it started so I am absolutely sure that theirs didn't either. To mark Chinese New Year our Beavers created dragons and took part in a dragon parade.

Our Beavers also had an amazing opportunity which they enjoyed during half term. They had a train trip to Peterborough from March, then a further train ride to Wansford, a tour of the engine sheds and signal box, another train to Yarwell through a long tunnel before returning to Nene Valley Railway Station and then back to March. A huge thank you to Hereward Community Rail Partnership for giving our young people such a memorable day out.



Cubs – continued learning about money, what could influence you to spend money and what doesn't. They also looked at how money is viewed in other countries and cultures around the world, in Greece guests at a wedding pin money on the bride and groom to help with their futures and in Kenya money is pooled and put towards something the community needs.



Scouts – have been exploring all things electronic. They have looked at components and what they do, they have also looked at the differences between digital and analog and the benefits of electronics before getting stuck in and having a go at creating circuits. They made and then raced brush bugs, made prototypes of home-made torches and dark-activated decorations, which they then turned into permanent items to take home, by learning the skill of soldering.

Explorers – they hiked from Tydd St Giles to their campsite at Wisbech St Mary, carrying all they needed with them. The following morning, they honed their archery and tomahawk throwing skills.

Upcoming – more camps, skills workshops and our practice camp for everyone going to Holland in August.

Don't miss out on our Race Night on 16th May 2026 at Doddington Village Hall. Tickets are £7.50 including a Sausage and Mash Supper and a £1 bet. Doors open at 5pm with the first race at 6pm. Watch out for the booking link on our Facebook page.

Thank you - We would like to say a huge thank you to **Go Hug the World** for their generous support and donation to us and to everyone who entered their competition to win such a fantastic prize. Congratulations David, we hope you enjoy your holiday. These funds will be used towards our trip to Holland in August.

Contact us: Scouting is for everyone aged 4-18y, and 18+ as an adult volunteer. Want to find out more about Scouting; either for a child to join, or to find out more about volunteering (from the age of 14y) to undertake a task or two? You don't need to have Scouting experience to volunteer, or be an expert at navigation or at lighting fires! Contact our Group Lead Volunteer for more info:

Alys.Turner@doddingtonscouts.org.uk or 07900 584182



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Or, to find out more about getting involved as an adult volunteer, supporting a whole range of tasks to suit your skills & interests.

1st Doddington Scout Group

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

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100th Club

The weather was warm and sunny and it really felt like the first day of Spring (just a couple of days early!), when the 100th Club met at the Pavilion. Members were thoroughly entertained by the Ouse Washes Molly Dancers. Dressed in traditional costumes, they gave a film show and demonstrated some "broom" and "step" dancing accompanied by a concertina and an accordion. They explained that this is a tradition that dates back to the 1300s, when people would dance on a board to earn a little extra cash.



Refreshments were then served, followed by the raffle. Next month's meeting, on Thursday 16th April, will be our Annual General Meeting and we look forward to a talk on the RNLI.

Members were told of the trip to Springfields on Wednesday 22nd April. The bus leaves the Three Tuns at 9am and we will be back in Doddington for 4pm. We welcome anyone to join us, you don't have to come with a member. Cost is Members £16, and non-members £20. To book your seat or for further details, please contact our secretary.



For further details please contact:
 Heather Kilby (Secretary) 07870 483195
 or email: Doddington100thClub@outlook.com
 (supported by Cambridgeshire County Council)



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Christmas Lights



The Christmas Lights Committee is so excited to announce its fun packed calendar for 2026. We have already had one event in March when the villagers were able to purchase their delicious Krispy Kreme Donuts from outside Bowls-Bi-Us. We may well repeat this event throughout the year if there is enough support.



Our AGM will be held at the Methodist Church from 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd April 2026. If you would like to hear what we have been doing behind the scenes and what our plans are for the future, you are most welcome to come along. We are always looking for people who can either become a part of the committee and decision making or just offer help during our various events. If you feel you would like to be included, even if it is for a few hours a year, please contact us to register your interest. Contact details are below.

Our big new event is the FEN SPIRITS TASTER EVENING ON 1ST May at the Village Hall. This should be a really fun social evening for all. Enjoy a cocktail upon arrival and then learn about the origins of vodka, gin and rum whilst experiencing three different flavours for each spirit. There will be a delicious Ploughman's supper and raffle and the evening will be topped off with 3 mystery drinks to test your taste buds.



If you wish to purchase tickets for this event, £25 each, please use Sumup Payment Links as follows: Fen Spirits Taster Evening - pay.sumup.com/b2c/QE61AXO2 or use this code. Remember to let us know if you have any special dietary requirements when booking.

The 7th June will be the Village Yard Sale. This is the opportunity for you to sell your pre-loved items from the comfort of your own front garden and earn some yourselves some cash. If you wish to include your address on our maps to attract more customers there is a small charge of £5. You can pay at pay.sumup.com/b2c/QQ7VRKCB or use this code. Remember to let us have your address to add to the maps.



We will be repeating our 10 week Summer Draw again this year, with the first draw taking place on Friday 31st July. Tickets will then be drawn every Friday evening until Friday 2nd October when the final draw will take place. There will be 2 prizes every week of £15 for the first 9 weeks. Then on the 10th week there will be three prizes drawn for £100, £50 and £25. Your tickets will be re-entered every week so there is every chance of multiple wins. Tickets will be available for sale for £5 each in the One Stop and from any Committee members from mid-April.



We will have stalls at the Carnival Sports Day on 4th July and the Summer Show on 25th July where we will have fun games and the opportunity to get your Summer Draw tickets.

Our grand finale for the year will be the Christmas Fair and Switch-on on Saturday 21st November 2026. If you wish to secure a stall for £10 per table at this very popular event please see contact details below.

Other ways to pay Doddington Christmas Lights:

Cash or cheque to 37 Wood Street, Doddington

BACS: Barclays Bank PLC

Sort Code: 20-43-63/Account Number: 13332969

Reference: Name/Organisation

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:

Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights



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SCOTT

Time to Learn Something?

A little different this month, I would like to write for all those who have some spare time on their hands. Whatever your age or status, if you are not in full time employment (or are approaching retirement age), you could use this time for something different.

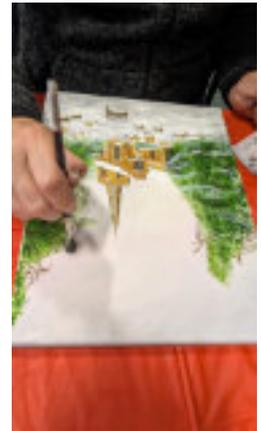


The u3a in Chatteris is a friendly group of people who organise all kinds of social events on an ongoing basis. As the group is run by volunteers, we have managed to keep our membership at a minimum price for several years



(still £20.00 per year) and offer, in exchange, numerous meetings, speakers and opportunities to learn and share together.

We have nearly 30 different interest groups that meet at members' homes or rented meeting places in Chatteris. These groups allow us to share in an informal friendly atmosphere our abilities and interests in learning languages (currently French, German and British Sign Language), researching family history records, walking together, nature discovery, singing, wine tasting, darts, reading and writing, arts and crafts, theatre outings and sharing national theatre plays, scrabble, whist, darts, golf, boardgames, and more.



We organise a monthly quiz as well as visits to local historic churches, a monthly open meeting where we welcome a specialist speaker in a large variety of topics.

We also offer computer and smartphone help, a bereavement support group and more ... and, of course, we are open to any ideas for new groups or topics of interest.

Why not come and make new friends? Our byline "Learn, Laugh, Live" explains our goals very succinctly.

More information available from:

<https://chatteris.u3asite.uk>
<https://www.youtube.com/@u3aChatteris>

Peter

Doddington 100 Years Ago : April 1926

On the 6th April, 1926 the British Broadcasting Company, which had only existed since November 1922, came to Doddington to broadcast a 15 minute excerpt of Handel's Messiah performed by the Doddington Choral Society led by the rector of Doddington, Rev Richard Ridge, in St Mary's church.

How the Rev Ridge persuaded the BBC to come to Doddington at this early date will probably remain a mystery. This was a full month before the first broadcast from King's College chapel and appears to be the first outside broadcast by the BBC in Cambridgeshire and probably only the second in East Anglia.

The performance was broadcast live at 9pm throughout the country and culminated with the famous Hallelujah Chorus.

BBC engineers placed three microphones inside the church and the vestry was converted into the control room, two telephone lines connected the church to the main transmitter in London.

The Doddington singers were supplemented by two professional singers, Miss Maud Bostock and Mrs George Chapman and Harry Hartley and Stanley Hill from Peterborough Cathedral. Musicians Mr JW Stallebrass and Mr AT Nottingham, both of March, also assisted.

To commemorate the event there will be a rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus at this year's Easter Sunday service, 10.30am St Mary's Church, Doddington..

We showed a picture of the performers in last month's Diary of the around 50 people who took part, and listed their names, six have been identified! (The picture is also on the Diary website).

Thank you to Marjorie Bishop for sharing this picture of inside the church!





1926 performers:

Lucy Beard, (*front row, 4th from left, light coloured outfit*)

Rev Richard Ridge (*centre front*)

Mrs Annie Morton (*white hat*)

Mrs Kate Green (*Annie's sister in the white blouse*)

Mr Algy Green (*behind Kate, her husband, had a Nursery business in St Peter's Road, March*)

Mr Thomas Weadon (?) (*4th from left, grandson Andrew singing on Easter Sunday*)



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Doddington 80 Years Ago : April 1946

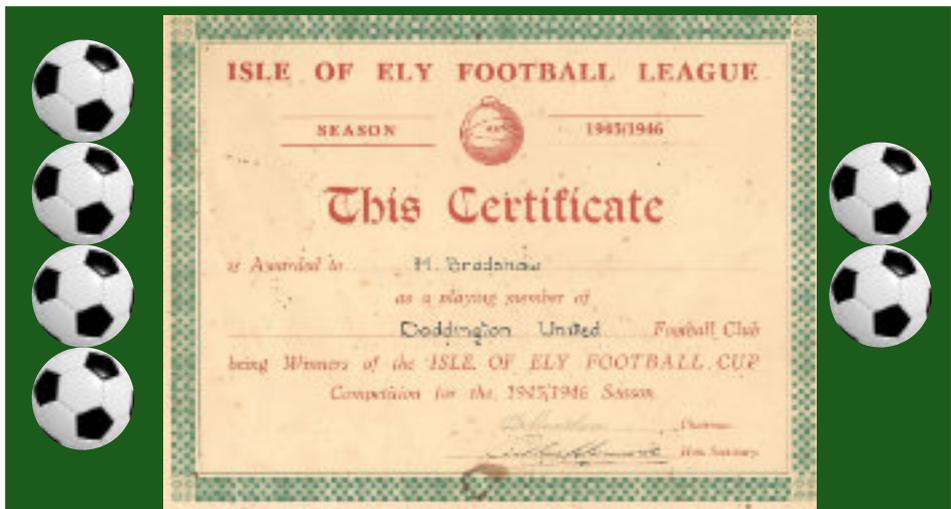
Tom Hart opened his shop at 1 Newgate Street selling earthenware, stationery and tobacco.

Mr RH Dunham, Benwick Road, announced that he had commenced business as a painter, decorator and plumber.

At the first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council Mr JW Edgeley was elected chairman and Mr FA Wood vice-chairman. It was proposed to request the Ministry of Agriculture for permission to sell the 7 acres of common land in Dykemoor and use the funds to purchase a recreation field in the village. It was agreed to offer the Rural District Council £50 to re-purchase the former fire engine house from them.

Nearly 4,000 people attended the Isle of Ely Junior Cup final at the March G.E.R. ground between Doddington United and March Rovers. Doddington won the match 4-2 with goals from E Hay, R Pope (2) and T McCormick. The team comprised: Southerell, D Harding, J Credland, H Bradshaw, R Pope (Capt.), E Hay, Revell, Dack, McCormick, Osborne and Upex.

(Mr Herb Bradshaw, was just 19 years old when he played in this cup final. He says that the a lot of the big crowd was made up of airmen based at Upwood (near Ramsey). They had come to support the team that contained their fellow airmen, E. Hay, T. McCormick, Osborne and Revel (who apparently also played the bones!!!) John Credland and John Southerell both worked in banks, Don Harding, Roy Pope and Herb Bradshaw lived in Benwick Road, Arnold Upex lived in Cooks Green and Bill Dack lived in High Street).



Doddington 50 Years Ago : April 1976

A fire at Smith and Aveling's farm, Primrose Hill, destroyed one building containing farm machinery.

Vandals caused £200 damage to the churchyard walls.

At the Annual Parish Assembly the rector, Father George Harris, appealed to the Parish Council to increase their contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard, which was now costing £1,200 per year, with the current grant being £357 per year. The Council agreed to discuss the matter at their next meeting.

A report from the Trustees of the Doddington Town Charity said that they had been able to issue 75p vouchers to eight pensioners.

To be continued....David Edwards



Asham

EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, 4th April 2026
12pm-5pm

 Estover Playing Field, Estover Road, March, PE15 8SF

For more details, please visit our Facebook page: Asham Village Community



THRIFT SHOP



The spring sunshine came out to welcome back the Doddington Thrift shop last month after the winter break. It was lovely to see all our regular customers again - as well as welcome many new ones.

We raised an impressive total of £679, (of which £155 came from cafe sales and £352 from the raffle). The Thrift shop is a great place to pick up all sorts of crazy bargains, recycling, upcycling, books, plants, clothes, homeware, great homemade bakes (just 80p each), fresh bacon rolls and there's always a happy, welcoming atmosphere. So, if you're having a spring time decluttering, donate your items (sorry, no electricals) and we'll do our best to find lovely new homes for them!

The funds raised go to the upkeep of the Church rooms and to support our chosen charity for 2026, The East Anglian Air Ambulance, MAGPAS.



We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 2nd April**.

Dates for 2026: 7/5, 4/6, 2/7, 6/8, 3/9, 1/10, 5/11, 3/12

We are open from 9am to 11am.

on the Wednesday before to accept donated items.

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Church Rooms

Please bring your own bags

Items can be donated at the church room on the Wednesday before the Thrift Shop between 10 and 11am.

*If you need any items collecting,
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Funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the church room and to support our chosen charity for 2026,

The East Anglian Air Ambulance, MAGPAS.

Please contact

Jan Holdich at janholdich@gmail.com

for more information