



# Dear Residents of Doddington

The best thing about putting together the Diary every month is hearing about all the activities and events that take place. There are so many people doing "their bit" for "their community", it never ceases to amaze me! This is always very noticeable in July when we have two major events in the space of four weeks.

Well done to everyone on the Carnival committee. It has been a tough couple of years for you all what with Covid and insurance issues, but you have weathered the storm and have come out the other side. Hopefully, you will have inspired other groups to consider putting in a float next year - tractor trailers can be half the size of lorry trailers, so maybe a little more manageable?

At the other end of the month, a completely different day, but no less enjoyable, is the Village Show. A chance for everyone to showcase their talents from cooking and crafts to vegetables and flowers. There were also lots to entertain and an opportunity to just catch up with friends over tea and cake served by the ladies of the WI. For those with energy left at the end of the day, dancing at the Silent Disco was just as popular as ever. (You may have noticed that the Diary is a little later than normal, that was so we could bring pictures from the Show.)

As a community we thank all of the volunteers that work so tirelessly on a committee or as individuals to make Doddington a great place to live.

Let's hope that the good weather continues now that the schools have finished for their summer break and if you are lucky enough to be going on holiday - have fun!!



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 0TT

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## A Message from the Rector

# Who is my neighbour?

Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up our neighbour - Romans 15:2



It was great to experience the Doddington Carnival for the first time. Congratulations to everyone who organised it, to those who gave, decorated and drove the floats, to Lionel Walden School for winning the float competition with their amazing Alice in Wonderland costumes, and to everyone who came out to wave at the children in the procession round the village. Thanks also to the Three Tuns for providing the focal point in the village for gathering and celebrating together. Events like this build up our village community.

I remarked to people who are longer in the Doddington tooth than I am, that it was a good turn out, but I was told in the days of yore there used to be a lot more people supporting the carnival. Lots of things make it harder to keep the old community spirit going. For more people, more of our lives are spent outside the village - our families and friends that we visit, our work, our shopping, life online, our leisure activities. There are new people moving into the village all the time, both through existing house sales and new properties, so it's harder to keep up with the churn. It feels like society conspires to fragment our community, rather than bring it together.

Interesting then, that 2,000 years ago, Rome was facing the same problem. The verse I've quoted at the top of the page was written by the Apostle Paul, and he obviously thought it needed saying - we need to be there for our neighbours. When Jesus was asked what you need to do to live in the kingdom of God, he said two things - love God and love your neighbour.

When asked 'Who is my neighbour' the response he gave was the story of the Good Samaritan. The point of the story is that the Samaritan (traditionally someone who was despised by the Jews in the first century) acted like a loving and caring neighbour to the guy who was beaten up and robbed. Jesus is saying, even our worst enemy is our neighbour.

So, how well do you know your neighbour? Do you know their names and do you help each other out? I appreciate my neighbour who has been generous in lending me some gardening equipment. Even if you've been living next door for years, it's never too late to knock on the door, and introduce yourself and ask if there is anything your neighbour needs.

At a deeper level, Jesus is also saying that he is the Good Samaritan. He loves and cares for each one of us, and he will go out of his way to connect with us and help us, especially in our times of need.

# St Mary's Church Services for AUGUST

Sunday 3rd August Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion

Christchurch 10.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th August Wimblington 10.30am Morning Prayer

Manea 10.30am Holy Communion

Benwick No Service

Sunday 17th August Doddington 10.30am Morning Prayer

Christchurch 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th August Wimblington 10.30am Holy Communion

Manea 10.30am Morning Prayer Welney 3.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 31st August Wimblington 10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion



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Come and join us for refreshments, games and a good old chat!

If Jesus is someone who you don't know very well, or if you have questions about life, faith or religion, then join us for the first session of our new Alpha course on 21st September. Do contact me if you'd like further details. You can come to the first session without any obligation to come again. It's an opportunity to share your views with others.

Canon Mark Collinson: email: Mark.6fenchurches@gmail.com: Tel: 0787 4847 157

#### **WE REMEMBER: HELEN BUCKLAND**

Helen passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025. She was a quiet lady with a wicked sense of humour and was devoted to her family and friends. She loved rock and roll, reading, jewellery, baking, gardening and when out walking with her dog Poppy she could not walk past a piece of litter without picking it up.

Helen, with her husband, Nigel, were founder members of the Doddington Christmas Lights Committee but she also supported many of the village's events by supplying her delicious cakes.

Since the loss of her husband, Helen hosted a Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. For weeks, she and her daughter would bake to provide a huge array of cakes to sell and she would buy prizes each month for a tombola. She raised several thousand pounds for the charity and although her health was failing she had really hoped that this year she would be able to host the BIGGEST AND BEST COFFEE MORNING EVER because, she knew it would be her last.

Sadly, this is now not possible, so in her memory, her friends will be holding the event on her behalf at the Pavilion, Benwick Road from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Please put the date in your diary so that you can come along for a chat, a cuppa and some delicious cake. More details will be in the September issue of the Doddington Diary.



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# Sunday 10th August: NO SERVICE

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 SORRY, back to one a month

Thursday: No events

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

If you are looking for a venue, especially for children's parties, our hall is available at very reasonable prices. We also have the option of the use of some great play equipment through the Under 5s. For more information please contact Elaine (details below).

The church email address for enquiries is: Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com
For more booking information please contact
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## **Congratulations to our Volunteers**

We had three very well deserved nominations for this year's Pride in Fenland awards.

**The Thrift Shop** began life over 50 years ago and although it has had a chequered history, it continued



on and off until Covid. It was as we emerged from the pandemic, that Jan Holditch looked into reinvigorating it and now with a host of volunteers they have gone from strength to strength. Opening ten months of the year they sell clothes, plants, electrical goods, bric-a-brac and many other items that can be upcycled or recycled. They also have a very successful tea shop selling refreshments as you browse. They have raised hundreds of pounds which go towards the upkeep of the Church Rooms and other charities.

Lynnette Frankland can be found serving tea or generally helping at the Thrift Shop, or you may see her making tea and chatting at the Community Café on a Friday morning. In fact, she could pop up just about any where with her apron on and tea pot in hand. However, when she is not making tea, you could find her tending to the plants around the Clock Tower or in the garden at the top of Benwick Road. Lynnette will also take time to simply sit on a bench to have a chat. She is an unassuming lady, who quietly spends her time helping others.

**David Edwards** is definitely the "go to" person if you want to know anything about Doddington. As his interest in newspapers, clippings and photographs grew, so did his knowledge of the village. David is a popular speaker giving talks on a host of Doddington topics from general village life, to the history of the school or the evolution of the workhouse to hospital to MIU. David also volunteers at March

Museum and is a very valued contributor to the Doddington Diary! When he is not at his desk, you will find him in the Church yard looking after the gardens and keeping the gravestones tidy - which is another interesting subject for one of David's talks, prominent village people buried in the graveyard!

Well done to all of you, recognition of your dedication is well deserved.



## **Girlguiding**

Our Rainbows have had a flavourful term, working hard to earn their Fruit and Veg Badge. They practiced their knife skills by making colourful and healthy fruit kebabs and even created their own catchy songs to encourage others to eat more fruit and vegetables.



We were also lucky enough to be visited by Belles GF Bakes, who ran a wonderful cake decorating workshop. The girls let their imaginations run wild, creating vibrant and tasty cupcakes that looked amazing.

With the warmer weather, we made the most of the sunshine by heading outdoors for some team water games and a slip-and-slide session.

Brownies were very excited to be able to look around and sit in a tractor as part of learning about farming, some were very keen to test drive it around the car park! We spoke about food grown locally and looked at some local crops; learning and discussing how each crop is used and whether it was for human or animal consumption.

A fun, busy evening was spent creating our entries for the Summer show, including jewellery, picture frames, junk models and pencil sketches. We are looking forward to seeing their artwork on display – good luck Brownies!

We held an end of term Sports Day with lots of familiar fun races, egg and spoon, three legged and a few water games. We had two teams, Brownies verses Parents, this led to some very competitive skills on both sides, a fun evening but you can probably guess who won!

Our Guides have taken an holistic approach this term as they worked towards their Natural Remedies Badge. They explored the benefits of essential oils and how these can support mental wellbeing. Each Guide decorated their own 'worry jar' to help manage feelings and emotions.

They also enjoyed making bath bombs, infused with mood-boosting oils, designed to help ease stress and lift spirits. Not only was this a relaxing activity, but it also gave the girls a chance to experiment with scents and creativity.

Taking on the challenge of leading, the Guides ran their own activities, building confidence and valuable leadership skills. Their next session was earning their Mixology Badge, where they explored a wide variety of drink combinations. They designed their own menus, mixed up colourful and creative drinks, and hosted a tasting session where others scored their concoctions.

Once again, we were very pleased to take part in the Doddington Carnival. Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides put a lot of effort into making float decorations and their costumes so we were delighted to be awarded junior runner up for our Little Misses of Girlguiding. As we rode around the village, the girls sang traditional Guiding songs lead by our two brilliant Young Leaders. Thank you very much to



everyone who supported our fundraising stall in the afternoon.

Finally, we wrapped up the term with a fantastic bowling trip, which was a brilliant way to celebrate all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides this term and to come together and have fun.

Over the summer, ten of our girls will be heading off for an exciting week of camping at Norjam, an international jamboree packed with activities, adventures, and new friendships. We can't wait to hear all about their experiences and look forward to sharing what they get up to next month.

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 and Guides are 10-14 years. Please contact Abbey on abbeycater@hotmail.co.uk.



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#### **Recreation Committee**

Our next Prize Bingo Night will be held on Thursday 21st August at the Pavilion. Doors open at 7pm, with eyes down at 7.30pm. Come along for a friendly evening with great grocery prizes to be won. Free



refreshments are provided, or feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks.

The Pavilion is available to hire for all kinds of occasions, including family parties, baby showers, christenings, and other celebrations. With a spacious hall and plenty of outdoor space, it's an ideal venue for both indoor and outdoor events. Contact us for availability and booking details.

We're pleased to share that a new hearing loop has been installed in the main hall of the Pavilion. This will greatly improve accessibility for those with hearing aids and make events more inclusive for all. Huge thanks go to the Doddington 100th Club, who led and funded this valuable project.

In addition, we're delighted to report that we were successful in our grant application to the Ransonmoor Wind Farm Community Fund. With their support, we have purchased four new recycled plastic benches for the croquet lawn, along with a new picnic bench. These benches not only enhance the site visually and

practically but also contribute to our environmental goals by reusing plastic waste in a meaningful way.

As a committee, we're committed to continuing our efforts to be more environmentally friendly, choosing sustainable options wherever possible in future improvements to the Pavilion and grounds.

Don't forget, you can support us by joining our One Lottery. For just £1 a week, you'll be entered into a weekly draw with a cash prize winner every week. 50% of all ticket sales come directly back to the Doddington Recreation Committee. Sign up at <a href="https://www.onelottery.co.uk">www.onelottery.co.uk</a> and search for Doddington Recreation Committee.

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Our latest article explores the key factors in choosing a guardian, from shared values to financial stability, and highlights ways to provide financial support, including trusts and life insurance. A well-prepared will ensures your children are raised according to your wishes, giving you peace of mind.

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#### Women's Institute

Members were welcomed to the July meeting and "Jerusalem" was sung.



The sad news was given of the recent passing of Helen Buckland who had been a member for many years and will be sadly missed by everyone. Her family will be arranging a Macmillan coffee morning in the Pavilion on the last Saturday in September. Helen regularly held coffee mornings for Macmillan, and she was hoping to hold one last one which was to be the biggest one yet, so it is hoped that this coffee morning will surpass her dreams and be a fitting tribute to her.

Information about various outings was given and that this year's Isle Cup Competition is for a lemon drizzle cake. The village Summer Show was discussed and a clipboard passed around for members to make cakes or volunteer for the day. As we have donated a cup for the Jam Competition, it was hoped that some members would enter.

The speaker for the evening was Mike Wabe who gave a very interesting account of ten common poisons and how they have been used. He gave some entertaining information about past murders by poisoning. He was thanked by Elaine Stratford.

Janine Woodhams and Gill Jolley were thanked for their refreshments.

The competition for a pot of herbs was won by Diana Philpot with 20 points.

Next month the speaker will be Diane Carlton-Smith on her latest book about Wisbech in 1230. The competition is for something obscure. The meeting closed with the National Anthem. For more information about the W.I. Contact Elaine Stratford (tel. 462057) or <a href="mailto:elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk">elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk</a>

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# Art as a hobby? Art as therapy? Art as a stepping stone to something else?



Over the past few years, I have organised a few drawing sessions or classes. It has been a year since the last one ended and I was wondering whether it would

be of interest to start one up again. Before I book and pay for rooms and materials, I was wondering whether there would be enough people interested, either from the village or surrounding areas.

The sessions would probably be held late afternoon or in the evening, on a weekly basis for two or three months. We could cover a number of topics, challenging one another to be creative through a series of exercises in charcoal, pencil, pastels, watercolour and acrylic paints (I cannot





use oil paints in classes because of the chemicals and fumes) and perhaps some other techniques (cyanotype, etching, clay modelling...). We could look at abstract and representational, landscapes and portraits, movement and still-life.

As usual, I will aim at keeping the cost to a minimum and will provide all the materials and equipment needed. But first, I need to have an idea if enough people are interested to cover the investment - I will not seek to make any money out of these, but I don't want to lose money either by financing it up front.

Get in touch if you are interested: <a href="DoddingtonArt@gmail.com">DoddingtonArt@gmail.com</a>, tel. 07739 989 867, tell me what would tempt you, when would suit you best, and whether you would prefer meeting in Doddington, Wimblington, March or Chatteris. I will try to organise accordingly.



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# **Neighbourhood Plan**

Apologies for the lack of recent updates while we waited for feedback on the draft plan from Fenland District Council before going out to public consultation.



The group has now received their comments, and we are in the process of making a few further edits. We hope to have these finalised in the next couple of weeks and will be looking to go out to public consultation with the village residents in September.

We will keep you informed as soon as the dates are confirmed.

As Chair, I am very grateful to the DNPG for all their hard work and patience to date. There have been some delays that were out of our control, but we remain focused and committed to the process to help safeguard the future of Doddington.

Please contact <a href="mailto:cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> for more information. Tel: 07815 462796

#### **Parish Council**

## **Additional Village Assets and Maintenance**

A reconditioned red telephone box, that will act as a book swap facility, has been ordered and will be sited on the land near to the bus shelter and flagpole opposite the Clock Tower. We will be looking for books to fill the shelves, once the Box is in position, and will let you know when we are open for donations.

Members agreed to seek quotations to replace the village public seats, using those made from recycled material and to provide additional seats at Manor Estate, at the Club House near the new outdoor gym on the Abbey field and to provide a picnic table at the bottom of the field.

Discussions are taking place with suppliers of play equipment for the possible installation at the Abbey field of a zip wire and a rota cone climber.

A probationary contract has been agreed with a new contractor to maintain the grass on the Abbey Recreation Ground and in the Benwick Road Cemetery.

A survey of all the trees surrounding the Abbey Recreation Ground has taken place and quotations are now being sought to undertake the work recommended by the survey. We will also be considering a possible nature walk through parts of the boundary area once the work has been completed.

The Parish Council's website can be viewed at <a href="https://www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> where there is also a contact page to 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 631 153 Chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk







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# Doddington Recreation Committee Benwick Road Playground Renewal

Earlier this year a small group of people got together to raise funds for the renewal of the playground at Benwick Road recreation ground. So far, we have raised £2,145 plus a promised £5000 from the Parish Council towards the £56,000 we need to fully renew the playground.



We have sent an initial application to the Lottery Fund for a large portion of the money required and are awaiting their approval or otherwise.

We would like to thank everyone who has generously donated money already. Thank you so much for your support. It is very much appreciated. If anyone else wishes to make a donation for the new playground, they can do so by using the link below.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/doddington-recreation-committee-playground-subcommittee

Although we are making every effort, if we are unable to raise enough money to renew the playground, any money raised will be used to improve it as far as possible.

# Croquet

Well- What a summer! It has been rather too hot even for croquet, but we have coped quite well. On the very hot Thursdays we delayed the start until 5pm, a time although still hot became more acceptable to the players that joined us.



The lawn has suffered from the drought and we are having trouble with jackdaws who are digging for grubs in the turf. As the grass has ceased to grow however, time has been saved in preparation.

We have recently had 2 new players join us and we extend a welcome to them and to any of you out there who would like a taster. Do come and have a go.

For any further information please email <a href="mailto:croquet@fieldsendfishing.co.uk">croquet@fieldsendfishing.co.uk</a> or call 07932122235





## What a Day to Remember!

Saturday 5th July saw Doddington burst into colour, music and community spirit as our annual Carnival Day brought everyone together once again for a fantastic celebration.

The day began with the much-loved Fancy Dress Competition, full of imagination and smiles, before the vibrant Carnival Parade took to the streets. Local groups, themed floats, musicians and performers marched through the village to the delight of the cheering crowds.

After the parade, the focus shifted to the recreation ground where the children's sports afternoon kept the energy going. Traditional races, medals and certificates made for a fun-filled afternoon, with proud parents and happy faces all around.

Visitors browsed 20 brilliant stalls, offering games, crafts, food and local produce. One of the most talked-about attractions was the stocks – where brave volunteers took a soaking for a good cause and lots of laughs! The fabulous team from Insane Terrain brought a small selection of their obstacles, for kids young and old to try out, ahead of their big day (August 24<sup>th</sup>).

The Wheelbarrow Raffle, packed with children's books and treats, drew plenty of attention, and the buzz across the field showed just how much the village enjoyed coming together once again.













Behind the scenes, months of planning, fundraising and local support made the day possible. From bunting, road closures and banners to prizes and signage, the Carnival Committee – along with many volunteers and





generous sponsors – helped bring it all together.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us, supported us, or helped make the day so special. Whether you paraded, raced, ran a stall, donated a prize, or simply came along to enjoy the fun – you were part of what makes Doddington Carnival Day so brilliant.

We'd also like to say a big thank you to Aaron's Mobile Mobility Maintenance, for sponsoring Carnival Day 2025!



Save the date for next year:

Saturday 4th July 2026!





# **Doddington Horticultural Society**

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Village Summer Show. It was pleasing to see so many entries, with a record number of entries in the Photography section. The number of entries in the cookerv and preserve section were also up, and there was a good display of fruit and vegetables but we suspect the prolonged hot weather and then heavy storms may be part of the reason why



there were not so many flowers. The rain on the afternoon did not stop people coming along to the enjoy the stalls, activities and WI cake!

We are very grateful for the continued support from other groups in the village including the Christmas Lights, Carnival, Scouts, Guides, the WI and of course, thank you to everyone who entered anything into the show. We will have a full show report and list of trophy winners in next month's Diary.

Meanwhile, looking to the future, some dates for your diary:

- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Doddington Horticultural Society Tombola at the Doddington Christmas Lights event.
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 The Third Doddington Scone Off

If you would be interested in joining the committee or volunteering at one of our forthcoming events, please get in touch.

More information on our Facebook page (Doddington Village Summer Show) and from: 07757 730425 (Hilton) or email <a href="mailto:doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com">doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com</a>





# **#SkillsForLife**

Scouting is for Young People and Adult Volunteers too!

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Every week 1st Doddington enables around 140 Young People, aged 4-18, develop Skills for Life, have fun, and take part in adventurous activities.

Find out more about volunteering opportunities for however much/little time you can offer, either in the background or with our Young People in their sections.



1st Doddington Scout Group. Charity Number: 1204134

Contact Alys our Group Lead Volunteer:

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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 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@dodddingtonscouts.org.uk or 07900 584182

# 1<sup>st</sup> Doddington Scout Group

Reflecting on July, I'm trying to think of something our young people have not done! Our busiest July weekend included Scouts and Explorers enjoying a fun time at Fenland Aqua Park. Cubs were on a hot weekend camp at Bradfield Park near Bury St Edmunds, using pedal carts, climbing, and cooking some of their food over a fire. At the same time, Beavers took to the water in St Ives to do some bell boating and rafting. Walter (aged 7) said: "Bell boating was epic. We had to chase footballs around in the water. The rafting was really fun, our team took a shortcut and our leader got splashed in the face by Bumpkin, which was super funny!"

Earlier in the month, Squirrels attended an activity day in St Ives which included firing cork crossbows, den building, campfire cooking, bottle rockets and science fun – so much fun for all (including the adults); I wish I was 5 years old again!

An activity our Scouts have been undertaking during July was the building of their own go-karts, made mainly from pallet wood. They spent three weeks getting their karts designed and built, in readiness to race on their last night of term. Lots of fun, and also plenty of #SkillsForLife gained along the way. Some of you may have seen the go-karts, and it was great to hear from passers-by how impressed they were by the creations, and it reminded some adults of their youth.

Scouting has so many parts to it - fun, developing Skills for Life, teamwork and enjoying the outdoors; I don't have space to write about everything we have been up to. It takes many hours of preparation to deliver, so thanks to a fabulous team of volunteers, who also enjoy the fun (including taking part in the fancy dress competition on Carnival Day – Harry Potter themed)! We are always looking for more helpers – please do get in touch if you are interested in finding out more – you don't need to have Scouting experience, you'll learn lots along the way.

July has been busy with fundraising too. We'd like to say thank you to everyone who supported our BBQs at the Carnival and Sports afternoon and the Village Show.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of two of our families who have taken on long distance walking challenges to raise money for our Holland Camp in August 2026. One family has walked Hadrian's Wall, and the other is walking the West Highland Way. If you have any spare pennies and would like to support them, we would all be extremely grateful. Fundraising links are: <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/page/steph-kennett-1">https://www.justgiving.com/page/steph-kennett-1</a>

And, lastly, for this month... we have joined a new fundraising scheme. If you would like to enter the Cambridgeshire Community Lottery for £1 a ticket, with the weekly chance to win a prize from £25 up to £25,000 here are the details on how to support us in the process – thank you. <a href="https://www.cambridgeshirecommunitylottery.co.uk/support/1st-doddington-scout-group">https://www.cambridgeshirecommunitylottery.co.uk/support/1st-doddington-scout-group</a>

#### **Christmas Lights**



We had a lovely day at the Carnival Sports Day and, at the time of writing, are looking forward to the Summer Show at the end of July. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

The amazing 10 Week Summer Draw will be drawn for the first time on 1<sup>st</sup> August and will be drawn each Friday after that until 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Each Friday during this period, a committee member will ask a member of the public to make the draw. This will be recorded and put on Facebook that evening on the Doddington Xmas Lights page.

You have a 2 in (maximum of) 250 chance of winning every week, for each ticket you have purchased. Any remaining tickets will still be on sale in the One Stop shop throughout the draw period.

Stalls for the Christmas Fair on 22<sup>nd</sup> November are going fast so please contact us as soon as possible to book your place for this year.

#### **Contact Details**

EMAIL: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com
TEXT OR PHONE: 07935282070

FACEBOOK: Doddington Xmas Lights



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# **Askham Village Community**



Askham Village Community recently held a Family

Fun Day to celebrate the incredible efforts of it's team members and the support they receive from their families. The event, held on Saturday 5th July, brought together staff, children and loved ones for an afternoon filled with laughter, games and shared moments of joy.

From bouncy castles and ball pits to the ever-popular Askham Olympics complete with tug of war, egg and spoon races and a very competitive three-legged dash, the day was full of light-hearted fun. Music played, laughter echoed, and despite the overcast skies, the mood was bright throughout.



One especially memorable moment came during the "Cake Face" activity, a light-hearted challenge where team members could nominate their leads to receive a cream pie in the face — all in the name of fun and fundraising and the children were only too happy to get involved. Proceeds from this event are going directly towards supporting meaningful activities within the homes, chosen by the teams themselves



We are also proud to share the wonderful success of two recent fundraising events, a Bake Sale and a Bingo Night, which together raised an impressive £500.

Funds raised will go towards the Askham Residents' Social Fund, which supports meaningful activities and events within the home, and Little Miracles Chatteris, a local charity supporting families of children with additional needs, disabilities, and life-limiting conditions.

The Bake Sale offered a delightful spread of sweet treats, all lovingly prepared and donated by team members and families. Held on-site at Askham, it sparked plenty of conversation and connection.

Special thanks go to The Sportsman for hosting the Bingo Night and to all the prize donors who helped make the evening extra special.

Also, get ready for an evening of friendly competition at our Trivia Night coming up on Friday, 5th September. Further details can be found on the <u>Askham Village Community Facebook page</u>.

## Fen Mobility Centre Ely: Professional Support with a Personal Touch

Fen Mobility Centre in Ely is more than just a mobility shop - it's a trusted local resource where expert advice, quality products and genuine care come together to support the community.

The team at Fen Mobility Centre is known for being friendly, supportive, and truly attentive to individual needs. Customers often comment on the warm, welcoming atmosphere and the respectful, no-pressure approach offered by staff. Whether someone is exploring options for the first time or looking to upgrade existing equipment, they can expect knowledgeable guidance and a helpful ear. Customers are certainly happy, they have a 4.9 rating on Google Reviews.

What truly sets Fen Mobility apart is the presence of their in-house Occupational Therapist (OT). This unique service means that assessments and recommendations are backed by professional insight, helping to ensure that the right solution is found for every customer. The OT works closely with the team to offer tailored advice, making complex decisions feel simple and stress-free.

Fen Mobility stocks a wide range of high-quality mobility and daily living products from scooters and powerchairs to riser recliners, walking aids, and bathroom equipment. All products are carefully chosen for comfort, reliability, and value, and the centre prides itself on offering competitive pricing across the board. It is very important to really try, test and feel the products to ensure the right choice.

In addition, they provide reliable delivery, installation, servicing and repairs across the Fens and the surrounding areas, ensuring a smooth and convenient experience from start to finish.

Whether supporting older adults, those living with long-term conditions, or people recovering from surgery or injury, Fen Mobility Centre is dedicated to helping individuals stay independent and confident in their everyday lives.

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# Engaging with Our Environment A Year of Enrichment at Lionel Walden School

As we draw the curtain on another busy and rewarding academic year at Lionel Walden Primary School, we take great pride in reflecting on the progress and achievements of our pupils. This year, our focus on learning through the environment - and the wider world - has not only enriched the curriculum but has also helped our children to develop a deeper understanding of their local surroundings and global community.

From forest school sessions, life cycle investigations, science-based growing projects and cultural celebrations, our pupils have taken part in a wide range of experiences that foster curiosity, care for the environment and appreciation for diversity.

## **Eels Project with Cambridgeshire ACRE**

This term, pupils in Years 4 and 5 took part in a fascinating environmental project in partnership with Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Environment Agency. After an inspiring assembly from Rachel at ACRE, children cared for eight young eels in a special tank at school - monitoring water quality, feeding them, learning about their life cycle and habitat.

The project culminated in an exciting trip to Godmanchester, where pupils released the eels into the wild. Their enthusiasm and knowledge impressed representatives from the Environment Agency and gave pupils a lasting sense of environmental responsibility.

# **Forest School and Outdoor Learning**

Our Forest School curriculum continues to flourish, especially with our younger pupils, who have benefitted from hands-on experiences in nature throughout the year. These sessions have nurtured resilience, teamwork and a deep connection with the natural world - whether through den building, exploring seasonal changes or learning how to care for living things in our school grounds.



Science Garden: Plants, Animals, and Life Cycles
Our beautifully refurbished Science Garden has become a
vibrant hub of learning and discovery. Pupils across the
school have enjoyed growing their own fruits and
vegetables, some of which have made their way into
meals prepared by our wonderful school cooks.

This year, children explored a wide range of life cycles—from tadpoles transforming into frogs and caterpillars becoming butterflies, to regular updates on the Osprey family at Manton Bay. Following Maya and her chicks has captured the children's imagination and we look forward to tracking her return next spring after their migration south.

34

## **Reception and Year 1 Assemblies**

Our youngest learners have shared their environmental discoveries in beautifully presented class assemblies. Reception pupils proudly showcased their knowledge of minibeasts through informative facts and delightful songs, while Year 1 explored the world of plants and animals. These events were well-attended by families and helped the children build confidence and take pride in their learning.

## **Growing Tower in Year 3**

Year 3 pupils have embraced a cutting-edge approach to science through the use of a vertical growing tower, kindly loaned by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This soil-free system uses water and light to nurture a variety of plants and has brought science to life in the classroom.

Children have carefully monitored growth, measured changes and explored key concepts such as germination and photosynthesis. Under the guidance of Mrs Naughton, they have also reflected on the importance of sustainable growing and healthy eating. Enthusiasm for this project continued to grow - quite literally!

## International Week: Celebrating Cultures and Languages

Another enriching highlight of the year was our much-enjoyed International Week. Each year group explored a different country - learning about its culture, geography, traditions, and language. Through stories, art, food, music and dance, children gained a wider appreciation of the world beyond their immediate environment.

# **Listening to Local Voices: A plan for Doddington**

We were pleased to welcome Sarah, a Fenland Communities Officer, who spent time with our pupils discussing the village of Doddington - what they love about it and what they feel could be improved. These thoughtful conversations gave children a valuable opportunity to reflect on issues that directly affect their lives. Through this, they were empowered to think critically about their local community and to consider how they might positively shape its future.

Continued ....

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And finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Bayes, our Deputy Headteacher.

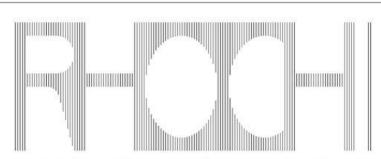
Mrs Bayes has dedicated 21 years of outstanding service to education, many of which have been spent enriching the lives of pupils at Lionel Walden Primary School. During this time, she has made an immeasurable impact on teaching and learning across the school. Her unwavering commitment, professional excellence, and child-centred approach have touched the lives of countless children and their families.

With a deep sense of care and compassion, Mrs Bayes has consistently placed the needs of pupils at the heart of everything she does. Her influence will be felt for many years to come, and her legacy is one of kindness, dedication, and high expectations.

As she begins her well-earned retirement, we extend our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes. We hope that she enjoys this new chapter, spending more time with her family and friends.

Goodbye, Mrs Bayes - you will be deeply missed by us all.

Have a wonderful summer everyone!



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# Doddington 80 Years Ago: August 1945

The ringing of the newly re-hung church bells in the early hours of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August signalled the end of the Second World War and despite the hour, people soon gathered in High street, a bonfire was lighted and music was provided. As daylight broke bunting appeared and during the morning it was decided to arrange a party for the children from the clock tower to the Wimblington boundary. Due to the weather, this was held in the school. Sports followed in the Ingles Lane paddock. Celebrations then continued in the school until late.

A united service of thanksgiving for peace was held at the church. Bonfires were lit and some fireworks were let off as darkness fell.

The following day the children in Benwick Lane\* to Parson Land were given a tea in Mr C Minett's paddock, also followed by sports and games and a dance in the British Legion Hall and a huge bonfire was lit in the evening. 43 children were entertained.

On the following Saturday it was the turn of the children from the clock tower to Newgate and Primrose Hill. The tea was held in Mr JP Miller's barn and paddock and again included sports for 71 children. A dance in the British Legion hall concluded the evening.

A Victory Supper was held in a marquee erected on the Manor field on the following Tuesday. 30 children and 72 adults from the Park Field area were entertained.

At all these events money was raised to pay for trips for the children in the future and 140 children and parents from High Street and Wimblington Road went to Hunstanton with a stop at Sandringham later in the month.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Sports were held at the end of the month. The Senior Girls Shield was won by Dorothy Walker with Rose Norman second. The Senior Boys Cup was won by Bert Wright with Gerald Fresher second. The Intermediate trophies were won by Dorothy Walker and Brian Burrell.

Miss Marjorie Taylor, 22, from Brighouse, Yorkshire, a member of the Women's Land Army based at the Manor Farm Hostel, Doddington, was killed in a road accident near Peterborough on VJ Night.

\*Benwick Lane was renamed Benwick Road in1948, the same time Carpenters Lane became Wood Street.

# **Doddington 50 Years Ago: August 1975**

Fenland District Council decided to defer a decision on a planning application by HC Janes (Homes) Ltd for 53 houses off Church Lane as they were unhappy with the general design. Councillors also considered that Church Lane was too narrow for the extra traffic that would be generated and the proposed development would result in a type of development which would spoil the character of the village.

A party from Doddington United FC paid their second visit to Tonisberg in Germany.

To be continued....David Edwards



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#### 100th Club

All the 100th Club Members thoroughly enjoyed the annual club summer luncheon. The staff at The Three Tuns really go out of their way to accommodate us, we are very grateful and the food was delicious! It seems Tina and Rob's homemade beef lasagne, chips, salad and coleslaw was a favourite but the scampi, chips and peas and the chicken breast were also very popular. The members then enjoyed an amazing selection of desserts; again Rob's rhubarb and custard was a winner. I'm positive that nobody went home hungry!!



The annual club subsidised bus trip to Hunstanton is on 12th August, departing at 9-9.30am and returning at 4-4.30pm. Seats are limited, but we invite non members to come along and enjoy a day on the coast, £18pp 100th Club Members and £20pp for non members.



On 21st August we will welcome The Ferry Project Cookery School that is sponsored by Cambridgeshire County Council, demonstrating; "One Pot Wonders Meals. It promises to be an interesting presentation that is suitable for all age groups, those with limited culinary skills or single people who want to 'Eat Well for Less' and non club members are more than welcome to come along as guests!

The 100th Club meet at the Pavilion and Recreation Fields, Benwick Road between 2-4pm, every 3rd Thursday of the month. We break at 3pm for refreshments and always have a raffle.

We are very grateful to all our Local Sponsors: Doddington Garden Centre, One Stop Doddington, Skylark, Ruth Hopkins, Doddington Diary and so many that support the 100th Club in it's 75th year.

For further details please contact:
Val Opperman (Chair) 073929 94294
Heather Kilby (Secretary) 07870 483195
or email: Doddington100thClub@outlook.com
(supported by Cambridgeshire County Council)



# THRIFT SHOP

Another successful and happy day at Doddington Thrift shop in July saw a very healthy fundraising total of £640, £120 of that from our lovely cafe cakes and savouries. Fresh produce, plants, furniture and our usual wide range of bargain.

recycled items all found new homes. So a big thank you as always to our customers, supporters, donators and of course our amazing team of volunteers.

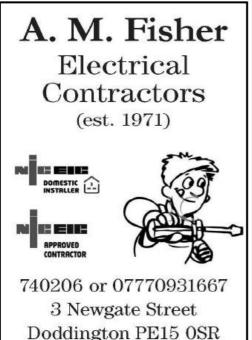
We were so pleased to see our efforts recognised in a lovely nomination for the Pride in Fenland Awards.

We'll be open again Thursday 7th August 9am to 1pm in the Church rooms. If you have items to donate, please drop them off 9 to 11am on Wednesday 6th August. Thank you and see you next time!

**Future Dates**: 7/8, 4/9, 2/10, 6/11, 4/12 We open on the Wednesday before to accept donated items from 9am to 11am.



Jan Holdich on 07305 799 257 janholdich@gmail.com





# Enlightenment Reiki

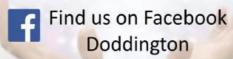
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