



Dear Residents of Doddington

The Christmas Season has certainly arrived and the village looks wonderful. Well done to everyone involved in the Craft Fair and Christmas Lights. It was a successful and entertaining afternoon despite the low turnout due to the weather. Well done to everyone for not letting the weather spoil the day!

We are now looking forward to seeing Santa over the weekend of 12th, 13th and 14th of December. The details can be found on pages 22 and 23 and you can even track his progress on the Doddington Carnival website. Let's hope the weather is kind and everyone can enjoy the weekend.

Spare a thought for those who feel that Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year. We especially think about those who have lost a loved one and the thought of an empty chair on Christmas Day can be upsetting. Perhaps you know someone who would appreciate a Christmas visit?

Unfortunately, as soon as one Diary has gone to print, it is time to start thinking about the next edition! This year the printing deadlines are particularly tight, so if you can let us have your January news and stories as early as possible, it would be very much appreciated.

It is a pleasure to pull all of the village information together each month. It never ceases to amaze me how many people are working tirelessly for the good of our community.

Thank you to everyone involved in **producing** and **delivering** your village magazine. Thank you all or your continued support, without your contributions and enthusiasm, there would be no magazine.

We wish you, and all you love, a wonderful Christmas, and peace and prosperity for the New Year.

From Sally, the Editor

Thank Vou!

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

The Christmas lights are up and we are excited to have an

extra set of angels overlooking our front garden, to go alongside the candles we had last year. Many thanks to everyone, in all of our villages, who has worked so hard to get the lights fixed up and ready for this season.

And of course, the children are getting excited about Christmas. As a church we are delighted to host Lionel Walden School Carol service on Wednesday 17th December in St Mary's Church. Every year we re-tell the story





of the birth of Jesus, so that by the time the children leave primary school it has become part of what it means to celebrate Christmas. You are invited to our church Carol service at 6pm on Sunday 14th December and our Crib Services on Christmas Eve at 2pm in St Mary's Doddington or 4pm in the village hall at Benwick.

Re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus is important because for over 1400 years the Christian faith has shaped who we are as a people and a nation. Christian kings going back to Anglo-Saxon times, before the Norman conquest of 1066, have sponsored Christian faith. Even today, King Charles remains Supreme Governor of the Church of England and was crowned according to ancient traditions by the Archbishop of Canterbury. His role is to defend not just Christian faith, but to protect the practice of all faiths in this country.

There are characteristics of being British that are directly shaped by the Christian message. We often naturally support the underdog in sport. That's because Christians made a big thing of caring for the weak, instead of just backing the strong. Our NHS evolved from the first hospitals that were provided by monks and nuns in monasteries and convents. That's why some of the big hospitals in London are named after saints: Guys, Bart's and St Thomas. We have laws that punish people if they kill or steal; we value loyalty rather than dishonesty: because of the Ten Commandments.

Despite this heritage, Christian faith is always just one generation away from extinction. If today's children don't catch the heart of Christian faith then what will happen to our nation when we forget what has made us what we are? If you want to help your children understand the sequel to the Christmas story, come and join our next Alpha course, launching in January. The people who have recently completed the Alpha course have found it amazing to encounter the reality of the risen Jesus. Let me know if you want to find out more.

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

St Mary's Church Services for DECEMBER

+ SIXFENCHURCHES

Sunday 7th Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion

Christchurch 10.30am Morning Prayer

Manea 6.00pm Evensong, (St Nicolas Patronal Festival)

Tuesday 9th Doddington 1.30pm Café Church

(including Advent Course, Church Rooms)

Sunday 14th Wimblington 10.30am Morning Prayer

Manea 10.30am Holy Communion Benwick 3.00pm Holy Communion Christchurch 5.00pm Carol Service Doddington 6.00pm Carol Service

Wednesday 17th Doddington 9.30am Carol Service

(Lionel Walden School)

Sunday 21st Doddington 10.30am Morning Prayer

Christchurch 10.30am Holy Communion Wimblington 3.00pm Carol Service

Manea 6.00pm Carol Service (with Chatteris Silver Band)

Wednesday 24th Doddington 2.00pm Crib Service

Manea 2.30pm Christingle Service Welney 4.00pm Carol Service Benwick 4.00pm Crib Service Wimblington 4.30pm Crib Service

Doddington 11.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 25th Wimblington 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th Wimblington 10.30am Holy Communion

Manea 10.30am Morning Prayer

Christmas at St Mary's

You are invited to attend our church services at any time of the year, but it is especially nice to see everyone at Christmas time. Our **Carol Service** will be at 6pm on Sunday 14th December and is followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The **Crib Service** will be held on Christmas Eve at 2pm. This is a family-friendly service, where we will sing carols and tell the story of the Nativity. This year we would like the children to dress up as characters from the story so that they can be involved, as we build the crib scene.

The children can choose their own character and we really don't mind if we have lots of Kings or lots of Marys, just come along and be a part of the special Christmas story.





We will move from Christmas Eve into Christmas Day, with a service of **Holy Communion** at 11.30pm.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you at one of our services..





Methodist Church

Sunday 14th December: 2.30pm: Carol Service **Rev Lorna Vincent**



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)



WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

For more information please contact Elaine (details below). The church email address for enquiries is: Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com For more booking information please contact Elaine Thornton on 07778 284 749





Doddington COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM



FRIDAYS

at

Come and join us at our social hub every Friday morning between 10am - 1.30pm.

Free of charge inc all refreshments. Everyone The Church Rooms

welcome!

New Street, Doddington PE15 0SP Supported by Cambridgeshire ACRE

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

Christmas Lights

Despite incessant rain, we had a lovely day in the village at the **Doddington Christmas** Fair and Switch On event. We had so many people attending and everyone seemed to be having fun. One particular highlight was the performance of the Lionel Warden school choir in the Village Hall which attracted a delighted audience. The choir sang beautifully, thank you.

We will shortly be contacting raffle winners who were unable to be at the draw.

We sincerely hope you had a great day and that you are enjoying the lovely lights displays we have put around the village.

We hope you get the same thrill that we do, each time we come into the village and see the colourful lights brightening our streets.











We could not achieve what we do each year without the help and support of so many people to whom we owe our heartfelt thanks:-

- The unsung heroes are the kind people who allow us to plant poles in their front gardens and supply electricity to our lights each year. They give very generously so that we can maintain and develop the lights each year.
- d Brian and Ed Elmore for all their help transporting the poles and lights around the village to their locations and helping to resolve all of the issues that crop up.
- delights of the hardy crews of volunteers who help raise the heavy poles and the lights and then take them down again at the end of the season.
- 5 The indispensable James Welcher and Aaron for raising the lights!
- Jason Shepherd for the loan of his trailer
- The One Stop Shop; Tessa's Hair Design; The Newsagents; Ace Communications; Archie Palmer; Doddington Garden Centre; Skylark Garden Centre; Delfland; David Connor; The Parish Council; The Scouts; The Carnival Prince Toby and Princess Alessia and all the people who support our fundraising events.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE IT

Enjoy your Christmas everybody and we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!



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Neighbourhood Plan

After a break over the summer, and time to reflect and act on feedback from Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire ACRE, the DNPG met on 11th November to agree the latest edits for the draft plan.



The past few months have seen things progress slower than we would have wished but we are all excited to be reaching the final phases with a united focus to get the project over the line.

The Consultation 14 Plan is now with Fenland District Council again and we are just waiting for their sign off before we go to public consultation when residents will have a minimum 6-week window to provide further feedback. This will include two open events to be held in the village.

As Chair, I am grateful to everyone in the group and beyond for their skills and patience during the process. Looking back, we have come such a long way and learnt so much since May 2022 when the group of Doddington residents was formed.

Having a Neighbourhood Plan gives our community direct power to develop a shared vision for our village and to shape the development and growth in the area.

There have been a lot of changes in recent years, and Doddington has grown considerably, with more people living in the village, more people working from home and the impact that has. It is great to have so many wonderful community groups and local businesses doing well, but we also need to be mindful of the extra pressure that is being put on local services and the village infrastructure.

We hope the Neighbourhood Plan for Doddington's future will determine areas for residential development and land use, the preservation of green spaces, housing needs, types of buildings, traffic and transport, economic development, community facilities, infrastructure, environment, and access to local services.

For more information please contact: cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07815 462796



















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Christmas Fayre

The 2025 Askham Christmas Fayre brought a full day of festive joy to Askham Village Community, welcoming residents, families, visitors and stall holders for a truly heartwarming celebration. Even in the cold weather, the atmosphere was filled with warmth, with Christmas music, lively conversations and plenty of smiles throughout the day.

This year's Fayre featured a delightful variety of stalls offering handmade crafts, Christmas decorations, gifts, sweet treats, books and multiple tombolas. Visitors enjoyed delicious festive food, including special dishes prepared by Askham's own chef, which added a lovely seasonal touch for everyone browsing and socialising.

A particular highlight of the day was the arrival of **two reindeer**, who captured everyone's attention and created magical moments for both children and adults. **Santa's Grotto** was busy throughout the day, and **Ryan Jarvis Photography** was a real hit, with visitors enjoying the opportunity to book 15-minute photography slots and take home beautifully printed photo packages. The carols in the café brought people together in a moment of warmth and seasonal cheer, rounding off a beautiful collection of experiences that made the day feel truly special.









We are also delighted to invite everyone to our next festive gathering: **Christmas Bingo Night** at **Doddington Village Hall** on **Sunday**, **7**th **December**, from **6.30pm**.

Looking ahead to 2026, plans are already underway for our next major community celebration, The **Askham Summer Fayre** that will take place on **1**st **August 2026**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another wonderful event.

From all of us at Askham Village Community, we would like to send our warmest wishes for a joyful and peaceful festive season spent with loved ones.

Girlguiding

Our Rainbows have been Trainee Crazy Scientists creating their very own mini experiments! We created Lava Lamps, Foaming Faces, magically blew balloons up and we treated them to the Mentos and Coke experiment! We all had a great time!!



Brownies have started working on their Jobs badge. They have been having a think about what their dream job would be and finding out what skills they will need. They have also created questionnaires to interview parents to learn about what they need to do in their jobs.

Guides have been treated to a Just Dance session lead by a couple of our "in training" young leaders, some skilled dancers there! They are now working towards their Music badge, starting by reading notes to learn and perform Christmas tunes. They will then need to compose their own tunes and lyrics.

As a group we sung Christmas songs at Askham's Christmas Fayre. Each week the girls practised singing and learnt our own Girlguiding version of the 12 days of Christmas, if you heard them singing, we hope you liked it.

Thank you for coming along to our Family Haunted House painting session and Bingo. Lots of scary Haunted Houses were painted by children and adults. Everyone followed the instructions and was able to create a painting they were proud of – we have some good artists in the village! As requested, we are holding Christmas Sip and Paint events, for children and adults, both will be a fun, friendly and festive social event where you can create your own Christmas masterpieces. Please see poster for details.



We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year. We are looking forward to another year of learning new skills, camping trips, a summer festival, day trips and many more adventures!

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.



Christmas Painting Sessions

Guided painting session
No experience necessary
Painting materials supplied

Sat 13th December

9:30am

Family Painting Session

Snowman Globe

@ The Scout Hall, Doddington

£5.00

Fri 19th December

7:00pm

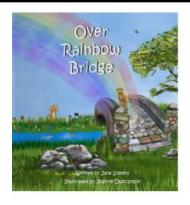
Adult Sip and Paint
Christmas Scene

Please bring your own Alcohol (optional)

The Pavilion, Doddington

£15.00

GirlguidingDoddington

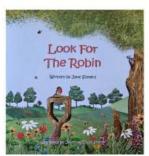


Over Rainbow Bridge is a touching story about pet loss, depicting the eternal bond between children and their pets.

The child discovers that even though their pet has now crossed over Rainbow Bridge, they will continue to watch over them with love, and they will remain best friends forever.

To order this book or my first book 'Look For The Robin' please visit my website: janesomersauthor.com

or email me at:askjane@janesomersauthor.com



Alzheimer's Society in Cambridgeshire Intensive Support Service

Alzheimer's Society support local people in Cambridgeshire. We have a team of fully trained Dementia Advisers who are here to support everyone affected by dementia or worried about memory, as well as their family members and carers.



Our Intensive Support Service for Carers is something we want to offer. We know that caring for someone with dementia can be difficult, with the carer sometimes feeling at crisis point and this can be for any number of reasons, including dementia symptoms becoming difficult to manage, or the carer having their own health issues. If this is the case, our Intensive Support Team may be able to help.

For more information about this or any of our services, please email cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk or call us on 01223 620962























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Recreation Committee

Our Christmas Bingo will take place on **Thursday 11th December**. Join us for an evening full of festive fun, seasonal treats, and plenty of great prizes. Doors open at 7.00pm, with eyes down at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome, so come along and enjoy a cheerful start to the Christmas season.



You can also support the Recreation Committee throughout the year by joining One Lottery. Tickets cost just £1 per week, and every ticket helps towards the running and maintenance of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

As we come to the end of the year, we would like to wish all our supporters and regular users of the Pavilion a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your continued support through hall bookings, attending fundraising events, joining One Lottery, and volunteering helps keep the Recreation Ground and Pavilion open. We receive no external funding and rely entirely on income from hire fees and fundraising, so your involvement truly makes a difference.

The committee will be taking a short break between Christmas and New Year. Any enquiries received during that time will be responded to in January.

We look forward to welcoming you to our events in the new year.

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Women's Institute

Members were welcomed to a very busy Annual meeting. As Elaine Stratford was away, Gemma Watts stood in as Secretary.



Sally Shortland had been to the recent Federation Meeting and reported that one of the speakers, Jeremy Spake, who had starred in the BBC series "Airport" was very interesting and amusing. Also speaking was Emma Sanders from MAGPAS. Sally spoke to her and hopes she will visit our WI to give a talk.

Various events were on clipboards for members to participate if desired. The clipboard was available for members to choose the menu for the New Year's Lunch on 15th January. Many gifts were brought along for the Christmas Lights event

Next year the subscription, which is due in April, will be £54 but Doddington WI are subsidising the fees by £4.

The table runners for the Centennial Cup Competition have been judged and the winners will be notified at the December meeting. The WI accounts have been signed off with no problems, thanks to Christine Head for doing a great job. Margaret Playford gave details of next year's programme.

Each Committee member gave a short report of the year: Gemma Watts (Events), Margaret Playford (Programme organiser), Gabbi Leeson (Competitions), Carol Turner (Raffle and Press reports), Christine Head (Treasurer), Elaine Stratford - read by Gemma (Secretary) and Sally Shortland (President). Sally thanked everyone for their work during the year, also thanking Ann Bosworth, Jo Dale and Kathy Streets for their hard work. Sally Shortland then stood down as President and voting took place for a President for next year. Sally Shortland was re-elected and the Committee members will stay the same.

It was then time to welcome November's speaker, Alice Jackman, who is an Academic from Anglia Ruskin University. Her talk was about "Women who Walk". Because she had found her one hour walk during the pandemic had been beneficial to her, both mentally and physically, she decided to study when women started to go for walks. Although they had to walk as a necessity in times gone by, they did not walk for pleasure. This was done by rich and privileged men. It was unheard of for women to go for a walk alone as this was considered unbecoming and dangerous. Nowadays, women are liberated to a certain extent as long as they walk in safe places. Alice was thanked by Gemma Watts.



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Refreshments were then served. The raffle took place and the competition results for a cat/cats were given. The winners were Christine Head and Mavis Gamsby who each gained 20 points.

Next month will be the Christmas party and members were asked to bring along their "secret Santa" presents. The speaker will be Stuart Green with "History of Shanty Songs". The competition will be for a. Christmas table decoration.

New members and visitors are very welcome.

For information, please contact Elaine Stratford (tel. 462057) or elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk





Doddington Village Sports and Carnival Committee



We are getting closer to Christmas, and the Carnival Committee is gearing up for

two festive fundraisers — the Santa Run and our new Christmas Barrow Raffle!

SANTA RUN 2025! For three evenings on Friday 12th December, Saturday 13th December and Sunday 14th December Santa will visit a different section of

Doddington, spreading Christmas cheer with the help of our fantastic volunteers. Come out and tell Santa what you would like for Christmas!

Don't forget you can find full route details and where Santa is, plus approximate timings using our Santa Tracker – Scan the QR Code or visit our website, at: www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk/fundraisers/santarun

We hope you'll come out, wave, and support Santa as he helps raise funds for next year's Carnival Day.

ALSO – if you'd like to be an '**Elf for a Night**', drop us a line! Come and help Santa for an evening, as we show him the sights of the village.

CARNIVAL CHRISTMAS BARROW!

We are excited to launch our new festive fundraiser — a wheelbarrow packed full of Christmas goodies, including: Christmas treats and sweets, Meat vouchers, Festive tipples and Seasonal essentials and surprises! (Just to be clear — we're raffling the contents, not the wheelbarrow itself!)

Tickets are £5 each, and we are aiming for the total value of the barrow to exceed £150 before the big draw.

The winner will be drawn by none other than Mr Santa Claus himself on Sunday 14th December, with results announced on our website and Facebook page.



If you'd like to donate something festive to help fill the barrow, we would be delighted — and we are happy to come and collect any contributions. Drop us an email to info@doddingtoncarnival.co.uk!

Merry Christmas and thank you for your support!

SANTA RUN

12, 13 and 14 December

Follow Santa on the live tracker at:

www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk/santarun

FRIDAY

START 6.00pm

Brickmaker's Arms Lane

Wimblington Road

Beech Avenue

Cypress Close

Beech Avenue

Cedar Avenue

Holly Drive

Cedar Avenue

Wimblington Road

Dexter Close

Wimblington Road

Witchford Close

Woodside Close

Witchford Close

Wimblington Road

Childs Lane Manor Estate

HETON MILES

SUNDAY

START 4.00pm

Washbrook Motocross Entrance

Benwick Road

Askham Row

Benwick Road

Hermitage Gardens

Benwick Road

Oak Tree Close

Benwick Road

New Street

Thistledown

Newgate Street

vewgate street

Ronalds Way

Newgate Street

Cooks Green

Miller Close

viillei Ciose

Cooks Green

Ancaster Way

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Hunts Close

Cooks Green

Newgate Street

Cornfields

Newgate Street

Primrose Hill

Cowslip Close

cowship close

Primrose Hill

Chestnut Close

Primrose Hill

Turnpike Close

Primrose Hill (To the Doddington sign)

SATURDAY

START 4.30pm

Juniper Close

Wood Street

Sutton Way Orchard Drive

Wood Street

Burdett Close

The Larches

Wood Street

The Rowans

Wood Street Carpenters Way

Drivers Close

The Grange

Wood Street

......

Knights Close

Wood Street High Street

Turn around at Clock Tower

High Street Ingles Lane Harvest Close Ingles Lane

Church Lane Eastalls Close

Walden Close

Bevills Close

Church Lane

Turf Fen Lane Fen View

Turf Fen Lane

The Cherries

Turf Fen Lane The Oaks

Turf Fen Lane

May Meadows

Turf Fen Lane

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Eastmoor Lane

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Remembrance Sunday

There was an excellent turn out of youngsters again this year, for the Remembrance Day parade and service. They paraded the short distance from the Three Tuns to the church, where they took up their positions around the war memorial for the Act of Remembrance.





The Scouts had been busy making poppy memorials for all of the villagers that lost their lives in WWI and WWII. David Edwards read the names of the fallen. Wreaths were laid by several village organisations and bugler Ted Tucker

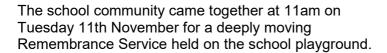
played the last post, the two minutes of silence was respectfully held.



A Scout and a Guide did the readings and everyone joined in the hymn and prayers. There was a collection at the end of the service for the Royal British Legion. It was a fitting and courteous tribute and thanks should be paid to everyone who took part in any way.



Lionel Walden School





Pupils shared thoughtful poems, displayed poignant artwork and sang beautifully, creating a reflective atmosphere that honoured the significance of the occasion.





We were delighted to welcome a large number of parents, carers and family members, whose presence added greatly to the sense of togetherness.



Children represented their local groups, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all attending proudly in their colours. CPO James Langley brought everyone to attention

for the two-minute silence, which was observed with exemplary respect by all.

The service concluded with a prayer by Cannon Mark Collinson.

It was a meaningful moment, demonstrating the strength of our school community and the importance we place on

remembering those who served.

Learn How To Draw

I will be running a **FREE** drawing course for people who want to learn how to draw or would

like some tips on how to get started. Maybe you would like to improve your drawing or would simply like to try something new, whatever your reason for wanting to draw, you are welcome to join us.

The course is free, thanks to the support from Creative Fenland, 2020 Productions, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Courses will be held from 1 to 3pm on Wednesdays 14th, 21st and

28th January and 4th February at the Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall (PE15 9JF). Come along and give it a go!





Peter https://www.peter-studio.com







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Doddington Horticultural Society

Thank you to our hard-working friends on the Doddington Christmas Lights committee for organising another fantastic event last month and allowing the Doddington Horticultural Society to be involved. Having a presence at village events such as the Lights Switch-On and the



Doddington Carnival and Sports Day helps to raise our profile, helps us to raise funds for our show and most importantly gives us chance to say hello and catch up with so many friends and supporters. It has been said many times that these events would not be possible without all the volunteers and generous financial support from residents and local businesses.

As a committee we are always looking for new ways to raise money to support the show, and it is regularly discussed at our meetings. If you know of anyone or any local businesses that would be interested in sponsoring a section at the show next July, please get in touch. Show day is **Saturday 25**th **July 2026**.

We are starting to take bookings for stalls at the show already. If you are interested, please email doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com for more information

Before then we have the third **Doddington Scone Off** on **Saturday 14**th **March** in the Village Hall – open to everyone and special classes for children. We hope lots of you will join us for a cream tea after judging – whether you entered or not. There will be more information nearer to the date

The committee is also discussing a **Photographic Competition** to be held next Spring (date and venue to be confirmed) with a suggestion that the prize-winning images are included in a Doddington Horticultural Society calendar for 2027. Nothing like forward planning! We hope to have more news about this next month.



This is our last update for 2025, thank you for your support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

If you are interested in joining our committee and volunteers, please get in touch. Follow us on Facebook "Doddington Village Summer Show" for all the latest news. Phone: Ruth Hopkins – 07815 462796 or email:

doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com

Village Hall

What a fantastic end to the year we've had at the hall with Doddington Nights and our Charity Burlesque event both enjoying great support.

We are rounding off the year with The Anglian Players' panto – Puss In Boots! Rehearsals are in full swing, and it's already shaping up to be another sell-out show. Dates: 18th–21st December and the tickets are just £5! To book, simply Google "ticket source Doddington" and select Puss in Boots!!



Tickets are also now available via Ticket Source for the "80s, 90s, 00s Throw Back Disco" on Saturday 31st January 2026.

Looking for the perfect venue for your party or event? Our hall offers a versatile, affordable space ideal for any occasion.

Find out more or arrange a visit at www.doddvillagehall.co.uk or email us on doddvillagehall@mail.com.



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Group activities in November included reflections on those who have



given their lives, as we created poppies for Remembrance, adding to our poppy net display outside the hall. We also created poppies for the churchyard trees with the profiles of the 45 fallen of Doddington whose names are on the war memorial. Our young people and volunteers joined the parade and service to show their respects in Doddington,



Wimblington, Benwick and Manea. The same weekend, one of our Leaders ran a half marathon wearing his crocs, whilst we cooked bacon butties for all to enjoy.

In our sections we have seen planetary creations made by Squirrels, the Beavers considering global issues including World Toilet Day and the Cubs undertaking some DIY as well as a sleepover after a long muddy walk from March to Doddington. The Scouts have been reflecting on disabilities and doing some pioneering and the Explorers have been firing trebuchets and undertaking a nine hour hiking and navigation challenge South of Cambridge, with a team of five of our leaders also taking part!



Later in November we cooked and sold burgers at the Christmas Fair for the lights switch on, followed by our 3rd annual Christmas Bingo, which was fun for all the family with some amazing prizes. Thank you to all who have so kindly supported us with donations - all the proceeds have gone towards our 2026 Holland Camp adventure. Bingo will be back again at the same time next year!



We would like to thank everyone for their support during 2025. We really do appreciate it. We look forward to lots more fun, adventure and activities in 2026.

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 lighting fires! Contact us via www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk



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Contact us to find out how to get involved.

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

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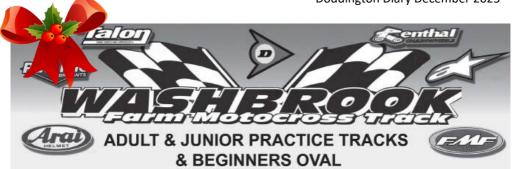
In 2001 a map, used in various texts referring to Doddington and March, and whose whereabouts had been unknown for at least 48 years was deposited with Cambridgeshire Archives.

The map of Manor of Doddington, that also includes the town of March and the village of Wimblington, is of historical significance as well as being of great local interest. It shows the houses, fields, tracks and roads of Doddington and its hamlets of March and Wimblington, as well as providing information about the people who lived on the manor.

The Cambridgeshire Records Society, with the permission of the owner of the map and Cambridgeshire Archives, has reproduced full size copies of the map and produced a booklet detailing the research undertaken by the authors, on the date of the map, its maker and why it was made, and what we can learn from it about the history of Doddington, March and Wimblington.

The 71 page booklet, which also contains transcripts of key documents of the period, along with the 4 sheets that make up the map is presented in a specifically designed folder.

David Edwards and William Franklin will present the work undertaken and the finished result. Copies, priced £24.00 will be on sale after the presentation and available from March Museum





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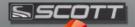
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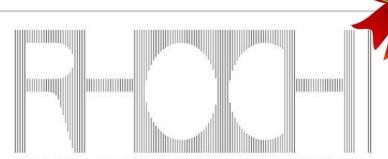
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Doddington 80 Years Ago: December 1945

The Hospital Sunday Committee decided to distribute this year's collection to: Addenbrooke's £40, Peterborough Hospital £40 and the remaining £10 to Doddington, Benwick and Wimblington District Nursing Association.

The Home Guard, having been stood down in 1944, was disbanded at the end of 1945.

At the AGM of the Women's Institute Mrs N Payne was elected President in place of Mrs Whittome who had retired having held the position since 1919.

74 children attended the Christmas party at the school. The tea was prepared by members of the Women's Voluntary Service with music and games played afterwards. An exhibition of work was prepared in one of the rooms for parents to view and boys showed how they learned to use the telephone with some demonstration apparatus. The children then entertained their visitors with songs, poems and a short play. The village hand-bell ringers, under Mr H Ellington concluded the event.

A Nativity play was performed in the British Legion Hall (site of the present village hall) narrated by Rev R Ridge and produced by Mrs M Raynar. The principal performers were: Miss J Henson as Mary; Mr A Stokeley as Joseph; Mrs M Raynar as the Archangel; Messrs Perry, R Williams and O Wright as the Shepherds and Messrs O Wright, J Ruse and C Bester as the Wise men.



Doddington 50 Years Ago: December 1975

The future of surgery at Doddington Hospital was again put in doubt due to difficulties recruiting a consultant anaesthetist.

At the Infant Welfare Clinic held in the Church rooms mothers and babies had been filmed by Thames Television for use in a future TV documentary.

Fenland District Council accepted the name of Ronald's Way for the new development of 19 dwellings off Newgate Street.

Mr Bertram Stanley Smith M.B.E. died at his home Brankley House, New Street, at the age of 71. Mr Smith had worked for the Ministry of Food and later the Potato Marketing Board, for which work he received the M.B.E. in 1955. Mr Smith was also organist at the Methodist Chapel for many years and founded the Girls Choir there

To be continued....David Edwards



Dear Diary,

I was walking from the bus at the top of Benwick Road, carrying two bags of shopping, when a young teenager asked if I would like help with my shopping. I said that was very kind, but I didn't want him to go out of his way. He replied that he was going for a walk and would be happy to

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

come as far as I was going. We exchanged names and chatted along the way. I offered him something towards his pocket money but he said no. I was really impressed and grateful. We hear so many bad things about youngsters, but I thought Max should have a pat on the back for this thoughtfulness and kindness.







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100th Club

Members were entertained by Chatteris Community Choir, conducted by their choir master Chris. They sang a variety of songs and Christmas carols with members encouraged to join in.

This was followed by an interim General Meeting, when it was agreed that six members will run the club until the Annual General Meeting.

Refreshments and raffle completed the afternoon. Members were reminded that membership fees are due again in January.

Everyone involved with the 100th Club wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming new members in 2026.



For further details please contact:
Heather Kilby (Secretary) 07870 483195
or email: Doddington100thClub@outlook.com
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A festive "thank you" to all the customers, supporters, recyclers and amazing volunteers for making the Thrift Shop such a happy and very successful event for the village again this year.

November's Thrift shop raised our highest total to date! An impressive £809 (£155 from cafe sales) for the upkeep of the Church rooms and our chosen charity for the year, Guide dogs for the Blind. Christmas decorations, apples, recycling, books, cakes, clothes, shoes, household goods, plants and fabrics all found new homes!

December's Thrift Shop will see our lovely Christmas stalls include fresh Doddington grown mistletoe at just 50p a bunch!

Our next shop is Thursday 4th December from 9am to 1pm. If you have items to donate, please drop them by on Wednesday 3rd December 9 to 11am.

We welcome any donated small Christmas electricals, fairy lights etc for PAT testing, but due to limited storage space, no other electrical donations at this time, thank you. Carrier bags are always on our wish list, too!

December will be the last Thrift shop of 2025 and we will re-open in March 2026. From the Thrifty team, stay thrifty until then and have a very Happy Christmas!

Jan Holdich on 07305 799 257 janholdich@gmail.com



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