

Doddington DIARY



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Tuesday 17th February

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Dear Residents of Doddington



First and foremost, I would like to thank our new volunteers for agreeing to deliver the Doddington Diary each month. We no longer have two vacant rounds, and have the luxury of a couple of "stand-by" volunteers to cover for holidays. What an excellent result and their kindness is much appreciated by us all.

Tuesday 17th February is National Random Act of Kindness Day. An opportunity for you to turn an ordinary day into something special with a small, thoughtful gesture - like a sincere smile or offering a seat on the bus. Of course, this kind of gesture is appreciated at any time of the year, it certainly made me feel good when I randomly received a Christmas card from the Brownies.

You will see (on page 16) that the Carnival Committee have been busy thinking about the summer and have announced the theme for this year's Carnival. There is lots of time for you to be creative and decide how you are going to join in.

In the meantime, there is lots to get involved in ... from quizzes to historical talks to making scones, so there should be something for everyone.

We have a new advertiser with us this month, and they have opened their account with a competition! You could win £250 off your next holiday, so do take a look.

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 0TT

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A Message from the Rector



Over Christmas we had a family walk to Stonea Camp, the late Iron Age fort that was occupied by the Romans just three or four decades after the death of Jesus. It reminded me of one of my favourite films when I was a teenager, Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. Like the defeated Iceni tribe, John Cleese, the leader of the Jewish resistance in the film, rallies his followers by demanding, 'What have the Romans ever given us?' After an embarrassing pause, the answers start flowing: the aqueduct, sanitation, irrigation, roads, medicine, education, wine, public baths and safe streets at night.

Like Jerusalem, North Africa, and much of continental Europe, England also benefitted from Roman imperialism during the *Pax Romana*, when there was peace between countries within the Empire. The foundation of modern England owes much to Roman legacy. But there were some things that the Romans did that we would find abhorrent. They crucified people.

The Romans crucified people in their thousands. For miles the roads to Rome were lined with the corpses of captured prisoners of war nailed to crosses. Crucifixion was the normal punishment for a slave. The cross was a symbol of terror, Roman domination and power. It kept the poor, on whom the rich depended for their cheap labour, in their place.

Yet there was one person who died on a cross who changed the whole Roman Empire. Christians believe (and so do most historians) that Jesus died on a cross outside the walls of Jerusalem in the 30's AD. Over 500 people saw him resurrected back to life on several different occasions. It took 300 years before the Roman Emperor also became a Christian, and the rest, they say, is history. England also became a Christian country. Instead of a symbol of terror the cross became jewellery, a thing of beauty.

Everyone has an opinion about Jesus. At the Six Fen Churches we would love to hear what you think about him. [The Alpha Course](#) provides a safe space to express your opinion. Let me know if you want to join us on Monday nights at 7:30 to 9pm.

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

St Mary's Church Services for FEBRUARY



Sunday 1st **Doddington** **10.30am** **Holy Communion**

Wimblington **9.30am** *Breakfast Church*

Christchurch **10.30am** *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 8th *Wimblington* **10.30am** *Morning Prayer*

Manea **10.30am** *Holy Communion*

Benwick **3.00pm** *Holy Communion*

Tuesday 10th **Doddington** **1.30pm** **Café Church**

(Church Rooms)

Sunday 15th **Doddington** **10.30am** **Morning Prayer**

Christchurch **10.30am** *Holy Communion*

Wednesday 18th **Ash Wednesday**

Doddington **6.30pm** *Imposition of Ashes*

Manea **6.30pm** *Imposition of Ashes (Taizé)*

Sunday 22nd *Wimblington* **10.30am** *Holy Communion*

Manea **10.30am** *Morning Prayer*

Welney **3.00pm** *Holy Communion*

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Plough Sunday

This year Plough Sunday, held at the beginning of January, was celebrated at Wimblington Church.

For many generations, each Autumn, it has been the tradition to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest. The work then starts again as the farmers get busy preparing the ground and sowing the new crops. After Christmas, the farming community would get together to celebrate the beginning of a new year. At the Plough Sunday service, a plough would be brought into the church to be blessed, the plough being a symbol that links the partnership of the farmer with God.

It would have been inconceivable to a child born on a working farm in 1926 to imagine how much farming would change over their lifetime. Horses were the mainstay of the farm and would have been used for all of the heavy activities, including pulling the plough. Once the harvest was ready, a "binder" (drawn by horse or tractor) cut the stalks that were then tied into sheaves. These bundles were stacked upright and left in the field to dry. A contractor, such as W H Betts from March, would visit the farm with a threshing machine which would separate the kernels from the straw. The process was very labour intensive and would involve all of the family including the children, as the bundles were fed into the machine and the grain was bagged.



How things have changed in such a relatively short time. Machinery has got bigger, faster and "very clever". Huge amounts of wheat are cut at a time, processed and grain dropped immediately into the accompanying trailer. The driver will be in an air-conditioned cab, with satellite mapping and laser guided steering! In addition, the changes off the farm, in research and development, means the yield from the crops has doubled.



There has also been a change in the church's role in the community. The harvest is still celebrated, but gone are the days of the harvest supper and sale, donations are now made for the local food bank and there is no plough in the church for Plough Sunday, but we still remember our farming community.

A farmer was looking over his field of growing crops when his local vicar stopped by, the vicar said "Isn't God great to produce such wonder" to which the farmer replied "I think it is more of a partnership, as you should have seen it when He was left to look after the field on his own!"

Methodist Church

**Sunday 8th February : Holy Communion and Covenant Service
2.30pm : 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)

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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Girlguiding

Every year on 22 February, we celebrate World Thinking Day.

World Thinking Day has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It is a day for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world.

The celebration has a different theme every year. This year it is 'Our Friendship', and it will be particularly special as it marks 100 years of World Thinking Day!

Rainbows were very excited to make their own tie-dye t-shirts; and some very crazy rainbow t-shirts were made! They have also been busy designing and creating their very own Zoo for lots of different animals to live in.



Brownies have been cheerleading; making pompoms and dance routines. They will be taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch, learning about different types of birds and then making some tasty treats for their garden birds.

Guides have been making tie-dye plate bags and sewing patches onto them to make them more individual. These will be ready to use for their Camping trips later in the year.

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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Doddington Model Club

For many years now Doddington Model Club has had a strong association with the RSPCA Block Fen, regularly flying all types of model aircraft from one of their fields, you may have seen our stall at the RSPCA open day. As keen supporters of the charity, every year we donate to the RSPCA Block Fen, based on their 'wish list' of animal food and toys for cats and dogs, this year was no exception. The presentation of items was given on the Sunday before Christmas by Andy Wake, Neil Chapman and Martin Brooks and donations were gratefully received by some of the staff and two of the dogs that the RSPCA are currently looking after.



If you are interested in learning to fly model aircraft or would like more information on the club, visit the DMC web site. <https://doddingtonmodelclub.bmfa.club/> or email doddington.model.club.dmc@gmail.com

Also, for those who would just like to try, 'Have-a-go' sessions are available at £5 for two ten-minute flights.

An advertisement for DRP Security Services. The background features a man in a dark suit and tie, and a woman in a blue dress, both looking towards the camera. The text "Prevention. Protection. Safety." is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters on the left side. The bottom of the advertisement contains the company's contact information: "DRP Security Services | 07736 672159 | DRPSecServ@hotmail.com | Facebook: @DRPSS". There is also a small circular logo on the left.

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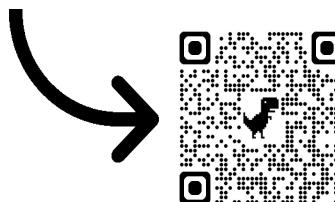
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Neighbourhood Plan Group

We are pleased to advise that the DNPG met with Fenland District Council (FDC) in early January, and they told us that they are happy for us to take the Regulation 14 Plan to open consultation. FDC said they recognised the huge amount of work that has already gone into the project. This is a significant milestone and as Chair, I am very grateful to all the group for their time and effort in bringing it to this point.



So, the next stage is to open the public consultation on **Monday 2nd February** for 6 weeks (to 16th March). During this time the draft Plan will be available for feedback and can be viewed on the FDC and Doddington Parish Council websites along with all the supporting documentation.

The plan will be shared with key stakeholders, and local businesses and hard copies will be available to view at several locations and organisations within the village and beyond. Regular updates will be posted on Facebook and the community notice boards.

There are two Open Events planned for **Friday 27th February** (evening) and **Saturday 28th February** (morning) in the Church Rooms, New Street (opposite the gold post box) when you will be able to look at the documents, ask us questions and provide feedback. We do hope you will be able to attend and help us to develop a shared vision for our village and to shape the development and growth in the area.

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

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Horticultural Society

We are now well into 2026, and the Doddington Horticultural Society's next big event is the **3rd Doddington Scone Off** on **Saturday 14th March** to be held in Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road.



This is a popular event when we ask everyone to enter their scones into the competition to win some fabulous prizes and have a fun afternoon. Open to all there are classes for adults and children, and we hope to see all sorts of scones from the traditional to the more creative and interesting flavours. Look out for the posters and notices around the village and on social media for more information.

This year we are planning on featuring some music in the hall as well as a raffle and tombola to raise money for the Summer Village Show. When judging has finished, please join us – whether you entered or not – for a cup of tea and some delicious scones.

Plans are well underway for the **Doddington Village Summer Show** on **Saturday 25th July** and we are thrilled to say the dog show has been confirmed. Details will follow soon. We are looking for more attractions- so if you know anyone who may be interested in showcasing their group or organisation please pass on our details and get in touch. The show programme, listing all the classes for flowers, produce, handicrafts, art, photography, baking and preserves will be available soon so please take a look and start planning your entries. The show is open to all – there is something for everyone.

We are taking bookings for artisan and interesting stalls at the show. If you are interested or for information, email doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com

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

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For More Information See Our
Facebook Page - Doddington Village Summer Show



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While the bunting might be packed away for now, planning for **Doddington Carnival 2026** is already well underway and we're delighted to announce that next year's theme will be **CELEBRATIONS**.

It's a wonderfully open theme, and we're hoping it will spark lots of creativity across the village, whether it's **Christmas day, birthday, wedding day, anniversary, festival, jubilee, sporting victory or cultural celebration**, anything that marks a moment worth celebrating is fair game!

This theme will run right across Carnival Day, including:

- * **Scarecrow Competition** – imagine party-ready scarecrows, famous celebrations from history, or characters dressed for the biggest bash of their lives.
- * **Fancy Dress Competition** – from party animals and superheroes to brides, grooms, champions and carnival kings and queens.
- * **Carnival Parade Floats** – a perfect excuse to go big, bold and joyful, with music, colour and plenty of smiles. We can't wait to see how the village brings the Theme of **CELEBRATIONS** to life!

Our ever-popular **Doddington Carnival Pub Quizzes** are also back in **2026**, with two dates confirmed: **Saturday 14th March 2026** and **Saturday 26th September 2026**. As usual, Adam the quiz-master-sensation will be kicking things off at 8pm at The Three Tuns, Doddington.

These quizzes are always a great evening of friendly competition, laughter and local knowledge and, of course, they play an important part in raising funds to make Carnival Day bigger and better each year.



Entry is £4 per person and a maximum of six people to a team. Team tables can be booked directly at the bar at The Three Tuns.

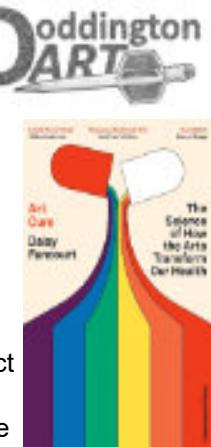
At the quiz on the 14th March, we will do the draw for our **Ultimate Easter Barrow**, a wheelbarrow full of all the essential goodies you'll need for Easter, for at least a year or two!! Tickets are already on-sale at £5 per ticket or £20 for 5 tickets.

As always, thank you for the continued support — 2026 is already shaping up to be something worth **CELEBRATING**. Lots more information online at www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk

Mind your health

Daisy Fancourt is an award-winning scientist and British researcher, professor of psychobiology and epidemiology at the UCL. She specialises in the relationships between health (including mental health) and lifestyle choices.

Her most recent book, "Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Transform Our Health", discusses the proven links between physical health, mental health and the practice of art. By "art", she is referring both to the activities that are carried out for their beauty or emotional expression; that includes the creative aspect but also the consumption of art, such as going to a museum or listening to music (listening to music, not just having it play in the background). Her book is full of references to medical research and studies that prove how art has a direct, causal, provable impact on health.



When referencing arts, she is obviously talking among others of painting and singing, but includes in the list arts such as reading, knitting, cooking and more.

Obviously, some of these claims are self-evident (dancing is good for the body), some are well-known (patients with dementia who cannot remember the names of their children but can sing along word-perfect to songs of their youth), and some are easy to understand (creativity reduces depression).

Other aspects are more surprising as we discover the result of recent investigations and research into the interaction between art and health. Art has a lot of multi-sensory activities that assist in diets, sleep and recovery. Arts activate reward mechanisms in our brains, producing dopamine and reducing inflammations. Arts also impact biological ageing by energizing links in our brains that would deteriorate with age.

Many examples illustrate her concepts: overcoming the physical degradation of a stroke through painting, hospitalised children who required less pain medication when distracted by theatre. These effects have more impact than just entertainment value.

This does not mean that art is some sort of panacea and some of the common beliefs are debunked (e.g. making newborn children hear Mozart does not influence their IQ, however singing to and with children does have an effect).

This book includes tips as to things **you** could do in **your** everyday life.

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Women's Institute

Doddington Women's Institute meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15pm in the Pavilion , Benwick Road. You are welcome to join us and here is a taster of the programme we have planned for 2026. There are also opportunities to take part in other events and outings organised by the Isle of Ely Federation.



February – A workshop led by the Craft Group to make fabric eggs to hang on an Easter branch.

March – A representative from Magpas is going to tell us about their work and demonstrate CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

April – 'Miss Haversham' will be talking about her friend Charles Dickens.

May – Mia Hansson from March has spent several years recreating the Bayeux Tapestry and she is coming to tell us about her journey with it.

June – Royal National Lifeboat Institution – following on from our success last year with a display entitled Mayday we will hear firsthand about the work of the RNLI.

July – A chance to relax and listen to the storyteller Alan Lamb.

August – Dr. Thomas's talk is entitled 'Women in Medicine'. There will be a competition for the best item constructed from empty blister packs.

September – Our favourite, David Edwards, is going to tell us the history of Doddington Workhouse

October – Always popular, a demonstration by Ann Purt of Autumn flower arrangements. Be prepared as the competition is for an arrangement using pinecones.

November – A relaxing social evening of games and quizzes.

December – We end the year with a Christmas Party, a Lindy Hop talk and demonstration, and a buffet prepared by the Committee.

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

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*The Doddington Diary Launch Giveaway — Abridged Terms & Conditions: £250 Travel Voucher valid for Bespoke Package Holiday bookings £2,500+ only, cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred; booking must be made within 18 months of draw date; excludes flight-only bookings. How to enter: online at www.gohugtheworld.com/doddington-diary-competition/ or paper entry via Doddington Diary cut-out in dropbox at The Three Tuns, Doddington, Entry value: both digital and paper entries 3 entries each; digital entrants can earn bonus entries through website tasks. Key dates: competition closes 1st March 2026 at midday; prize draw 7th March 2026; winner notification by phone within 48 hours; winner announcement on the Doddington Diary Facebook page. Prize: gift voucher to residents within 50 miles of PE10 0, one unique entry per person, must be 18+. Charity donor: Go Hug The World will donate £1 per unique entry (max £250) to 1st Doddington Scout Group & 1st Doddington Guide Group, Jamboree Fund. Data & privacy: entry requires name, email, phone, entrants must agree to receive "Fenland Explorer" emails; see Privacy Policy at gohugtheworld.com. Legal promoter: Go Hug The World Limited (Co. No. 16834250), registered in England & Wales; prize draw conducted fairly and independently; winner's decision is final; standard competition exclusions apply. Full Terms & Conditions: gohugtheworld.com/doddington-diary-competition/. Good luck, and thank you for supporting local Fenland youth groups!



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Community Living Room

The Community Living Room is open every Friday morning from 10am to 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome to pop along to enjoy a chat, free refreshments and the "just-for-fun" quiz that is held at 11am.



From time to time, activities are arranged for people to join if they wish.

Just before Christmas, everyone enjoyed a festive lunch at The Three Tuns and recently Andrew Dockerill

brought along watercolours and guided a group through painting a landscape picture. The idea of having your painting looked at by others may be a bit daunting, but with careful step-by-step instructions, a couple of hours later, everyone was pleased with their results!



You are very welcome to come and join us any Friday, the kettle is always on and there is also lots of useful information and help available.



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1st Doddington Scout Group

January is always a great time, all our young people are keen to see their friends after the festive break when they have all enjoyed time with their families. Some start in a new section after having started their moving on at the end of last term and all are looking forward to the activities that their adult volunteers have planned for them. It wasn't just the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who were eager to start the Spring term, our leaders were too.



Squirrels - returned to a session of junk modelling and then during the RSPB Bird Watch Week, they played bird bingo and tried to identify a bird just by its sound.

Beavers – in preparation for the Bird Watch our Beavers made bird feeders to put out in their gardens to help with the birds. Beavers had the first sleepover of 2026, when they spent an hour seeing how many birds they could spot. Following on from their visit to the Community Fridge last term, they visited Tesco spending time with Kelly their Community Champion. Kelly is an amazing support to 1st Doddington, so we really appreciated our time with her.

Cubs – could you identify a knot by feel alone? That's the challenge we set our Cubs on the first week back. They then had a game or two, as they enjoyed it so much, of reef knot relay. Do you know your reef knot from your granny knot and how fast could you tie one? Should Cubs be allowed to eat chocolate for breakfast all year round, not just at Christmas? In their view, is that a right or just nice to be able to do, that was the big debate this month.

Scouts – who likes a pancake, turns out our Scouts do. Before they got down to making and eating them, they had to come up with a list of things they needed and think about any risks involved in the activity and how they would deal with those. Problem solving and teamwork skills were put to the test when we set them several challenges to see how they dealt with them and if each group dealt with them in the same way or tried something different.

Explorers – well they couldn't miss out on the pancake making could they, this proved to be good fuel for the brain as they then had to plan what activities they wanted to do for the remainder of the term.

UpComing Event - Our Explorers along with their friends at 1st Whittlesey, are holding a quiz night at Whittlesey Scout Hall on 13th February. The last one they hosted, at our hall, was a fun evening with some very testing questions. Do you fancy your chances of winning the trophy the time? To book your team in just use the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FNPN> All funds raised will be going towards their International Camp in Holland in August.



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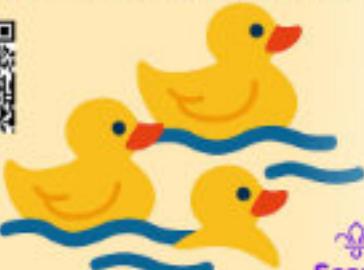


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Contact Alys our Group Lead Volunteer:

leadvolunteer@doddingtonscouts.org.uk or
07900 584182

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

1st Doddington Scout Group. Charity Number: 1204134

Walking Football

Radio Cambridgeshire have recently been looking at unusual ways of keeping fit, and they visited Doddington Pavilion to talk to the men of the March and Chatteris Walking Football group.



The group is run by Steve Wright, who explained some of the rules like, "you must walk and not run, you can only take three touches before passing to someone else and the ball should not go over shoulder height". He said that this made the game much more inclusive, including the less mobile and inexperienced.

In the interviews that followed some of the players were asked why they attend. Some very familiar voices said, "following retirement, it keeps you active and involved, it is a fantastic thing to do" and "it has helped me through some difficult times". While they obviously enjoy the football, they equally enjoy the banter and tea afterwards. They all acknowledged the benefits to mental health that the social side of the group brings, as they meet up away from the football for curry nights, and local trips out, that generally involved investigating the local pubs!

Steve says that the sessions are held every Monday and Wednesday morning: come rain, sun, bank holidays, broken biscuits, sugar shortage, summer holidays, sleep deprivation etc. We kick off at 10.00am so if you wish to join in, come early so we have time to sort the teams and warm up.

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Parish Council Report

Parish Precept 2026/2027

At its recent meeting, the Parish Council agreed to increase its annual precept by £3,000 to £68,000. A precept of £68,000 for Parish Council purposes works out at an annual charge on residential dwellings of £76.40, an increase on the current year's element of £3.37 or just over 6p per week.

Village Improvements

During the current financial year, a significant number of village improvements have taken place or are scheduled to be completed before the end of March 2026.

The Aerial Runway (Zip wire) and a Cone Climber within the Abbey Recreation grounds have been installed as additional recreational features for the children. In addition, the Pavilion's existing fire safety provisions have been updated and improved.

Nine new public seats to replace those around the village have been ordered for delivery and installation during February.

The Parish Council's website can be viewed at
www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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 631153 or via email at chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk





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Doddington Recreation Committee

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Bingo in January. Despite the awful weather, we had a full house, and it was lovely to see so many new faces, who are always very welcome. Your support really does make these evenings such a success.



Our next Prize Bingo Night will take place on Thursday 19th February. Doors open at 7.00pm, with eyes down at 7.30pm. Join us for another enjoyable evening with great grocery prizes and a friendly atmosphere.

On Saturday 21st February, we are holding a Ploughman's Supper and Historical Talk, when David Edwards will share stories and pictures of Doddington and its past. This is always a popular event and is already sold out. If you would like to join a waiting list, please call or message 07541 277119.

The Pavilion is available to hire for parties, family gatherings and community events. Please contact us if you would like further information or to check availability. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Contact us: Email. doddingtonrec@gmail.co.uk.
What's App/Text/Phone. 07541 277119.

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100th Club

Our January meeting was held on a very wet afternoon. Roger Newark gave a presentation that included lots of pictures of Doddington, both past and some present. This was followed by a presentation by David Edwards, about the map of the Manor of Doddington c1601, which included March and Wimblington. For centuries the Manor of Doddington was owned by the Abbots and then the Bishops of Ely, but soon after it was signed over to the Crown in 1600, Doddington was granted to Sir John Peyton, Lieutenant of the Tower of London. It was a very interesting afternoon.

Jackie Newark had made some sponge cakes that were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone with their tea and coffee! Subscriptions of £15 were paid for the coming year and members were asked for ideas and suggestions for forthcoming outings.

Next month's meeting on Thursday 19th February is a talk from Chapel Cottage Plants from Wimblington. We look forward to seeing you then.



For further details please contact:
 Heather Kilby (Secretary) 07870 483195
 or email: Doddington100thClub@outlook.com
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Christmas Lights



The lights have all been taken down now and have been packed away until the warmer weather arrives.

We will be undertaking a review of the ground sockets and fixings that support the displays and will carry out any necessary repairs. We will liaise with any affected residents should any work be required. We will also be carrying out running repairs to the strings and overhauling several silhouettes where the lights are very old and dim, to make the display even more vibrant next season.

At the risk of repeating ourselves we would like to say another huge thank you to everyone who supports the Christmas Lights. In particular, the residents who supply electricity to light the lights and have poles erected in their gardens. Also, to James Welcher and Brian Elmore for their time and their vehicles without which we would be unable to put the lights up at all. In addition, thank you, to everyone else who gave their time and equipment to make the 2025 Switch-on such a success.

We had an excellent response to the sponsorship initiative this year. Pictures of all their boards are on our Doddington Christmas Lights Facebook page and we would like to thank them once again for their support. We are so grateful to everyone who was able to donate so generously, by sponsoring, returning envelopes, donating on the Just Giving page or dropping their change in the collection boxes. Every penny counts towards the upkeep and maintenance of the lights.

One date for your diary so far this year, our AGM will be held on 2nd April 2026 at 7.30pm. Further details later.

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Doddington 80 Years Ago : February 1946

Mr Alan Conway was appointed Surgical Superintendent at the hospital succeeding Dr J.M. Scott Slater who had resigned. Mr Conway had served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the war seeing service in North Africa, Palestine and Europe, holding the rank of Surgeon Major.

Mr Alfred Stokeley, 55 High Street, retired as a baker after 40 years in Doddington. His business was transferred to Mr CT Saunders of March.

The Parish Council was in negotiations to re-purchase the old fire engine house from the Rural District Council to use as a storeroom.

The Rural District Council issued compulsory purchase orders for the land required for their Manor Estate housing development 10 acres from Messrs Deptford Brothers and the 0.6 acres site for prefabricated housing, now Peyton Close, from Mr JP Miller.

The ashes of Mrs Adelaide Bostock were interred in the churchyard, only the second occasion on which ashes had been buried here. Mrs Bostock died in Taunton aged 84, she was the daughter of the late Gideon Infield and her ashes were interred in the family vault.

Mr Jack Duffield, who had been a prisoner in the Far East, married Miss Mary Crofts of Leicester.

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Doddington 50 Years Ago : February 1976

Doddington Hospital will not close and it will not be run down. It would become a general surgical hospital if only the right staff could be attracted to work in Fenland. These were firm promises given to a meeting in Wimblington by the chairman of the Area Heath Authority.

A television programme was made by Thames Television showing the work of community nurse Mrs Joan Bliss of the Nurse's House, Brickmakers Arms Lane.

The Parish Council were proceeding with the purchase of the Royal British Legion Hall for use as a village hall.

The Women's Institute gave their first performance, since forming a concert party under Mrs Franks, to the 100th Club. The performances included songs, recitations, sketches and funny stories.

Former Doddington village police constable Roger Minett was promoted to Chief Superintendent. He had left Doddington in 1959 when promoted to Sergeant.

To be continued....David Edwards

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THRIFT SHOP

Next month will see the return of the Thrift Shop volunteers from their winter break.

The Thrift Shop is much loved for all sorts of crazy bargains, recycling, upcycling, books, plants, clothes, homeware, great homemade bakes (just 80p each) and a happy, welcoming atmosphere. The funds raised go to the upkeep of the Church rooms and to support our chosen charity for this year which is Guide Dogs for the Blind. So, if you're having a springtime de-cluttering, donate your items (sorry, no electricals) and we'll do our best to find lovely new homes for them!

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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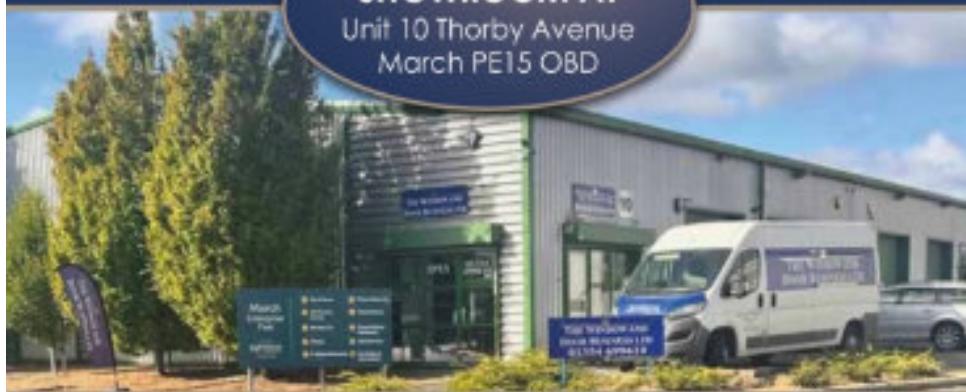
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