



Doddington

DIARY

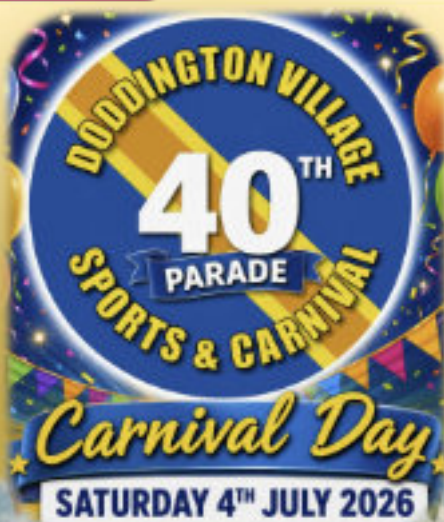


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July
2026

**ROADS
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**9:30am
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The 79th Annual
**Doddington
Summer Show**

Saturday 25th July 2026
Benwick Road Recreation Ground

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Dear Residents of Doddington

Here we are and July has arrived again! It is the time that all of those months of headaches, sleepless nights, planning, organising and sorting things out make way for fun and laughter, as the community come together to enjoy two very different long standing village traditions!

Sometimes life can be "hard work", but there is so much to celebrate and this is the theme for this year's carnival. As we walk around the village, it will make us all smile as the scarecrows start to appear, and then on Carnival Day get your seats out to watch the 40th anniversary parade as it passes through the village, before heading down to the Recreation Ground for sports, entertainment or just a cup of tea!

Once you have recovered from the Carnival Day, there will be just a few short weeks for you to make your final preparations and amendments to your entries into the Village Show. So, whether you are a gardener, cook, photographer, "crafty", young or not so young, there will be a class for you to display your talents. With lots to entertain and interest you, when you have finished admiring all of the entries, there will be plenty of tea and cake to refresh you!

As these two long standing traditions show, it is important to embrace change, and there are changes happening at the Scouts (see page 24). I would also like to send my good wishes to Alys. There have been many times when I wondered how she fitted everything in. I knew that her "day job" was extremely demanding (especially during Covid), but I never heard her complain. I have no doubt, and there is plenty of evidence to confirm, that she was just as committed to the children and leaders at the Scouts. She would often send the Diary report after midnight or early in the morning. Thank you for all of your support Alys. I wish you well for the next chapter of your life.

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

From Sally, the Editor

Doddington Diary Deadlines and Contact Details

Doddington Diary website: www.doddingtondiary.co.uk

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

Contact us by Email: doddingtondiary@gmail.com

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

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A Message from the Rector



Last week I had an air source heat pump fitted. I thought it was worth taking advantage of the £7,500 subsidy provided by the government, but it still cost the thick end of £4k. That's taken a chunk out of the car fund, so many thanks to Sisco for keeping the old jalopy on the road at 183,000 miles and counting. As one friend said, 'It doesn't owe you anything', but I'm counting on at least another 20,000 miles. It's going to be while before I can afford an electric car.

So why bother? Why bother with the heat pump? Is one less gas boiler really going to make a difference to global climate change?

I guess all of us are somewhere on a journey of responding to the climate crisis. A few years ago our son persuaded us to eat much less meat. We hardly ever buy it, but it's a real treat to get locally sourced good meat from the butcher on those rare occasions when we do. We've also cut down on flying for holidays - can't remember the last time we took a plane, and the chaos in airports or missing your flight home sounds like the best way to ruin the end of a holiday.

All the time our understanding of the climate crisis is growing. I've just learned that ruminant animals cause the most harm to the environment: cattle and sheep. So, last night I had a spicy chicken wrap in celebration.

The more I look into it, the more it looks like we are facing a food crisis in the next 20 years. The climate crisis means the world won't be producing enough food for people to eat. When people are hungry they move to places where they can get more food, even if that means moving half-way around the world. Do we want to prevent that?

If we eat less meat, less land is used to feed animals. It takes 80 calories of plant based food to get one calorie of beef. There's plenty of resource in the world to feed everyone, but we have to change our behaviour if we are going to prevent millions of people being forced to leave their countries to find a place to live where there is food.

Transport company Knowles have electric lorries for their short haul trips. Over time, through eating less beef my choices mean one less cow has burped out methane for all its life. There is one less gas boiler. Together we can all make a difference.



St Mary's Church Services

Sunday 5th July

9.30 am Breakfast Church, Wimblington
10.30 am Holy Communion, Doddington
10.30am Morning Prayer, Christchurch

Sunday 12th July

10.30 am Holy Communion, Manea
10.30 am Morning Prayer, Wimblington
3.00 pm Holy Communion, Benwick

Tuesday 14th July

1.30 pm Cafe Church, Church Rooms, Doddington

Sunday 19th July

10.30 am Morning Prayer, Doddington
10.30 am Holy Communion, Christchurch

Sunday 26th July

10.30 am Morning Prayer, Manea
10.30 am Holy Communion, Wimblington
3.00 pm Holy Communion, Welney

Christians believe that every human is made in the image of God. Every person has the right to the basics of food, clean water and shelter. My choice to restrain myself in some areas of life is giving life to someone else who I may never meet.

Want to discuss this? Email me on mark@sixfenchurches.org Canon Mark Collinson

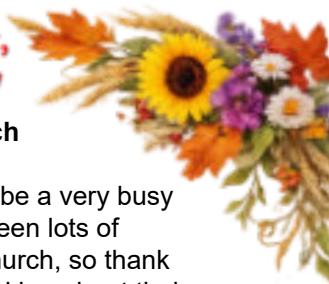
Canon Mark Collinson, Rector of the Six Fen Churches
Email mark@sixfenchurches.org or text 07874847157.





A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community

2nd - 4th October at St Mary's Church



Work is progressing well and it looks like it is going to be a very busy and entertaining weekend at the church. There has been lots of enthusiasm for flower arranging and decorating the church, so thank you to all the groups and individuals who are busy thinking about their creations.

It has been especially touching that so many different groups in our community want to be involved. The Friday is beginning to look like "Family Friday", beginning the day with a service involving the school children and in the evening, different groups of children working together to perform the "Story of Joseph."



The tickets are now available for our "Celebration of Music" which will be held at 7pm on the Saturday. Upwood Ukuleles, use a whole range of ukuleles from piccolo to bass, but don't be surprised if you also hear kazoos and other various percussion instruments!

Audience participation is encouraged, so warm up your vocal chords ready to join in with songs ranging from George Formby classics, through 1960s novelty numbers, to current chart hits. Tickets £5 each are available from anyone at the church or email doddingtondiary@gmail.com. We are pleased to be supporting Upwood Ukuleles as they support MAGPAS, we look forward to seeing you for a fun evening.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
You are invited you to a
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Saturday 3rd October 2026
7pm
at St Mary's Church,
Doddington
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• Ticket: £5
(includes a glass of wine)
Supporting MAGPAS

To complete the weekend, there will be two services on the Sunday, a more traditional Harvest Festival in the morning and Songs of Praise in the afternoon. So lots to look forward to.

**BUT FIRST look out for us in the Carnival Parade, as we enter our float
Celebrating, Harvest, Flowers and Community !!!**

Methodist Church

**Sunday 12th July : 2.30pm : Rev Lorna Valentine
EVERYONE WELCOME**

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

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

Wednesday: Auction: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Thursday: No events

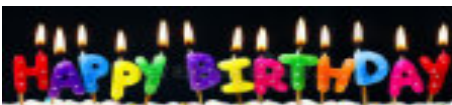
Friday: Under 5s: 10.00am - 11.30am (Mothers and Toddlers)

Saturday 4th July from 10am we will be serving coffee and cake, so pop along and watch the Carnival parade with us!!



**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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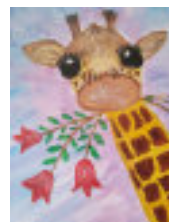
The Rainbows have had a busy and exciting few weeks! One of their favourite activities was making delicious cupcakes baked inside ice cream cones. We also welcomed a visit from Cats Protection, who taught the girls all about caring for cats. The Rainbows made their own cat masks and had great fun learning how vets help animals. They even got the chance to use a stethoscope, just like a real vet would when caring for poorly stray cats. We also enjoyed an outdoor adventure, taking our teddy bears along for a picnic. The girls enjoyed snacks, made s'mores over an open fire, and spent time exploring together.

Brownies also had great fun baking ice cream cakes. They made up the cake mix, put the mix in ice cream cones to cook. Once cooked we topped them off with whipped cream and sprinkles. They looked and tasted good! Brownies then designed their own ice creams with their favourite flavours. Brownies have been exploring the outdoors. They practised putting up their tents to have a fun evening out camping, with a campfire and campfire songs. They have been on a village walk, answering a quiz to hopefully learn some useful information and facts about Doddington.

The Guides have been busy putting their baking skills to the test by following a recipe and making cakes, before enjoying football and outdoor team games. One of the highlights for the Guides was a hike into a nearby wooded area. Equipped with gas stoves, cooking pans, milk, cream and marshmallows, the girls worked in groups to make their own delicious hot chocolate. After fuelling up with their tasty creations, they were ready for the hike back to base.

All the groups have been busy making colourful decorations for our Carnival float, please give us a wave on Carnival Day! We will also have our fundraising stall at the Sports Afternoon, so we are looking forward to a great day!

Finally, thank you very much to everyone that came along to our Giraffe Sip and Paint evening. We hope you all enjoyed creating your very own Giraffe - they all looked so colourful and happy! Please keep a look out for our next Sip and Paint in September.



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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The Estate Planning Mistake Business Owners Make Most Often

Many business owners spend years building something valuable, yet surprisingly few have a clear plan for what happens to that business if they die or lose capacity.

The result can be uncertainty for family members, disruption for staff, and unnecessary complications at exactly the wrong time.



One of the most common mistakes is the assumption that a standard Will automatically takes care of business succession. In reality, the situation is often far more complex.

In this month's article, I explore the estate planning oversight that catches many business owners out, and the practical steps that can help protect both your family and the business you've worked so hard to build.

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

Regards,

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Parish Council Report

Cllr. John Welcher: The Parish Council have been saddened to receive the resignation of Cllr. John Welcher and warm tributes from the Chair and members of the Council were paid to him at their June meeting. John followed his father onto the Parish Council over 40 years ago, and he has made an invaluable contribution to the village through his membership, including being its Chairman for many years, and taking a very active part in ensuring the building of our Village Hall amongst many other things. His statesmanship has been much appreciated by the current Chair, who relished his wise advice, counselling and knowledge and he will be very much missed. We wish John and his wife Lib a quieter life, but will ensure that he is kept aware of what we are up to and we will no doubt, still seek his advice.

Arrangements will shortly be made to commence the procedure to fill the vacancy.

Village update: Work has started on installing a new bus shelter in Benwick Road, near the roadway towards the hospital. This should hopefully give a pleasant amenity to the many people who work and live on Benwick Road.

The red telephone box to be sited a short distance from the bus shelter in the High Street will shortly be in place. The box will be shelved to enable it to be converted into a book swap facility for the village to use..

Abbey Recreation Ground: A recently cleared walkway through the tree lined boundary of the recreation field has exposed a number of very pretty pathways and clearances which have been converted into some very elaborate dens. We are delighted that these areas are already proving very popular with adults and children alike.

The Parish Council has received several enquiries to use the grounds and Club House for sports use and meetings. If you or your club are looking for a facility where you can hold a function, children's party or a committee meeting, please contact the Parish Council on 01354 680892 or 07714421087 to discuss your needs.

Nature Recovery in Doddington: The Parish Council are pleased to be helping towards Cambridgeshire County Council's initiative to promote 'Nature Recovery – from the Ground Up'. Further details of how you may be able to help take this forwards can be found on page 28.

The Parish Council's website is www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk where there is also a contact page for the Clerk of the Parish Council – office hours are usually Monday to Thursday 9.30-12.30 (Outside of statutory holidays)

You can also contact the Chair on 01354 740323 or 07787 631153 or via email at chair.ruthhufon@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Horticultural Society

The committee are all looking forward to the annual **Village Summer Show on Saturday 25th July** at The Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Benwick Road, Doddington.



Show programmes with a list of classes are available around the village or you can find a link on the posters in the bus shelters and a copy on the Doddington Diary website "What's On" page: <https://www.doddingtondiary.co.uk/whats-on> We will also have some show programmes available on our famous plant stall at the **Doddington Carnival** on Saturday 4th July. Please come and say "Hello".



We really hope you will get involved and support your local show – there will be lots going on for all the family. We have a wide range of classes to enter including fruit, vegetables, flowers, baking, preserves, arts, crafts, models and photography and a special section for children's entries. There are some beautiful trophies (and prize money) to be won.

Please encourage children to enter. This year there will be a standard entry fee of £2

for children to enter as many classes as they want to. Following the success in 2025 we have kept the five age groups (Under 4s, 5 to 7 years, 8 to 10 years, 11 to 13 years and 14 to 16 years) with some great classes including Graffiti, Digital Art, Hand Drawn Fashion Design, Model making, Jewellery, Photography and lots, lots more. Their exhibits will all be displayed in the big marquee alongside the adult competitions and our visitors love to see them when judging has finished.

We will be accepting entries for all classes on the Friday evening (24th) 5pm to 7pm and early on the Saturday morning (from 7.30am to 9am cut off) to allow judging to start promptly at 9.30am.



If you don't enter this time there will still be lots to do - outside the marquee we will have lots of local crafts stalls, the Dog Show, Birds of Prey, Animal Rescue organisations, and activities. There will be a choice of refreshments available – including burgers, Street food, ice creams and the usual delicious teas and homemade cakes in the Pavilion. So don't eat before you come!

We are running a Sunflower Trail for children. Register at the gate on the day and then find all the sunflowers hidden around the show ground to win a prize.



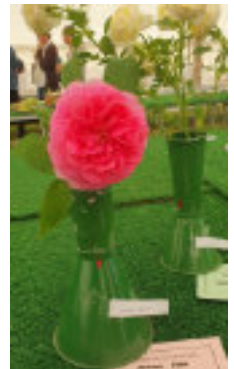
We are also inviting all Classic, Modified and Prized Cars, Motorbikes and Tractors etc. to join our show. In previous years they have made a wonderful display and created a lot of interest. Show us your pride and joy! They will be displayed on the field – no booking required. This year we are delighted to partner with “**Marching Mutts**” a local organisation “supporting Fenland’s dogs – one step at a time” who will be running the dog show and taking entries on the field from 12midday. Classes are; Fabulous Fella, Loveliest Lady, Best Treat Catcher, Cutest Eyes, Golden Oldie, Cutest Puppy, Best Rescue, Junior Handler, Best Recall and Overall Best in Show.

The stalls and the rest of the show ground will open at 12.30 and the marquee will open after judging from 1pm.

This year, due to rising costs, we will be charging a nominal £1 admission fee to the show ground for adults.

Parking is free. **Please park your car responsibly on the field or the overflow car park (Askham Village Community)** and please do not compromise access on Benwick Road.

Don't forget to bring some cash for our “Buy A Hamper” event at 3pm when we sell off fruit, vegetables, cakes and produce all kindly donated by exhibitors.



In the evening we will host a Family Bingo Night in the marquee, eyes down at 7.30pm. You can bring a picnic supper and drinks - or purchase burgers and chips from Finchy's the caterer.

We also have our **Grand Annual Prize Draw** – First prize £100, Second prize £50 and Third prize £25 to be drawn on the Saturday night. Tickets are £1 and are on sale now and on show day.



Visit our Facebook page
(Doddington Village Summer Show)

**Information from 07757 730425
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Women's Institute

There were three visitors to the June meeting and everyone was welcomed.

We had a successful Plant and Cake sale in May at the Methodist Church and a letter of thanks was received for our donation for the use of the hall.

Various events and invitations have been received from members of the Federation. Our entry in the church Harvest Flower Festival will be "Celebrating the W.I." Our entry in the Federation Co-operative competition will be "A Wartime Wedding".

We welcomed our speaker, Kate Hunt. She gave a very interesting talk about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Kate gave information of how the RNLI was formed in 1824 and the important role they played in both world wars and disasters at sea. Although it was formed with just men, nowadays 1 in 8 are women. They all have to live near the Lifeboat Station and be able to get there as quickly as possible. All the crew have to be very good swimmers and able to run in sand. Their kit is very expensive and also their boats - Hunstanton has a hovercraft. This is all paid for by donations from the general public - no help comes from the government. The RNLI have their college in Poole, Dorset where very intensive training takes place. The busiest station in the country is the River Thames in London where the currents are very strong. As there have been many tragedies recently with drowning in cold water, the RNLI will be educating on water safety in schools, etc. Kate was thanked by Elaine Stratford for a very informative and interesting talk.



Refreshments were served by Sally Graham and Amanda Boyden. The competition for a small boat was won by Ann Bosworth. After the raffle, the meeting ended with the National Anthem.

At the next meeting on 2nd July, the speaker will be Alan Lamb, a Fenland storyteller and the competition will be for an unusual garden tool.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Please contact Elaine Stratford secretary for more information about the W.I. (tel. 462057) or elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk

Doddington Recreation Committee



Our next Prize Bingo will take place on Thursday 16th July. Doors open at 7.00pm for eyes down at 7.30pm.

Come along and enjoy a friendly evening with great grocery prizes, free refreshments and good company. Whether you're a regular attendee or have never been before, everyone is welcome.

Did you know you can also support the Recreation Committee through One Lottery? Tickets cost just £1 per week, with a cash prize awarded every week. Better still, 50% of every ticket sold comes directly back to Doddington Recreation Committee to help with the upkeep and improvement of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. It's a simple and affordable way to support a valuable community facility. To find out more and sign up, visit www.onelottery.co.uk and search for Doddington Recreation Committee.

The Pavilion is available to hire for children's parties, family celebrations, baby showers, meetings, classes and community events. With a spacious hall, kitchen facilities and direct access to the recreation field, it offers a flexible and affordable venue right in the heart of the village. Please contact us for availability and further information.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Every hall booking, bingo ticket, lottery entry and volunteer hour helps us maintain and improve the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for the benefit of the whole community.

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

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

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



Doddington COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM

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at
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Doddington Art

Feeling Young?



Spring, summer, sunshine, rising temperatures... Some things make us feel younger, whatever age our papers claim we are.

A recent article in the journal "Innovation in Ageing"*** states that a regular active participation in artistic and cultural activities is proven to actively slow down the ageing process as much as physical activities. This is based on a study of 3556 UK households and takes into account BMI, DNA and other markers. The results demonstrate a reduction in the ageing of epigenetic markers. Even a small interest in arts such as visiting galleries or singing three times a year can reduce your physical ageing process by several percentage points.

We are lucky to have several opportunities to share in our local community, don't miss out on these. If you are interested in drawing and painting, get in touch with me - I can point you to some existing groups in the area, or we can start something more suited to your needs and desires.



Every child draws, most adults forget.

Peter Leeson

DoddingtonArt@gmail.com

*** The complete study is accessible at <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igag038>.

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Carnival Day 4th July 2026 – Nearly Here!

The countdown is on! Carnival Day is almost here, and we are looking forward to a fantastic day of fun, community spirit and, fittingly, plenty of Celebrations – this year's theme!

Scarecrow Competition

We are excited to see all the wonderful entries in this year's Scarecrow Competition, which features two categories, Households (for families and residents) and Community Groups (including Scouts, Guides, Lion's Den and other local organisations). Prizes will be awarded at the Children's Sports Afternoon.

Road Closures

Please note that the usual road closures (Newgate Street through to Wimblington Road) will be in place between **9:30am and 12:30pm** to allow the parade and activities to take place safely. Full details will be shared with the village (hand posted to each house) before the Carnival Day.

We really appreciate your cooperation and patience. We know that the road closures can cause problems and disruption, so thank you for your understanding.

Fancy Dress Competition

The ever-popular Fancy-Dress Competition starts at 9:45am, assembling behind The Three Tuns. We can't wait to see your creative interpretations of this year's Celebrations theme!

Carnival Parade

Our 2026 Carnival Prince and Princess, Hunter and Daisy, will proudly lead the parade through the village. Look out for the fantastic floats, bands and community groups that make this one of the highlights of our day. There will be music, food and drink available at The Three Tuns.

Children's Sports Afternoon

The action continues throughout the afternoon, at the Sports and Recreation Field, Benwick Road, opposite the hospital. Gates open at 12:30, and races begin at 2pm.

There will be plenty to enjoy for all ages, including:

- Children's races (free to enter)
- Local sports clubs and activities to try (free)
- More than 40 market stalls
- Zorbing Hamster Balls (£2 per go)
- Bouncy Castles (£2 wristband for all day access)
- Refreshments
 - Tea and Cakes (from The Women's Institute)
 - Burgers (from Doddington Scouts)
 - Fried Chicken Van
 - Churros
 - Bubble Tea!



Our 2026 Sponsors

On behalf of everyone, we would like to say a big Thank You to our 2026 Sponsors, it is their support that helps to make the Carnival Day possible.

Gold Sponsor: Smurfit Westrock. **Silver Sponsor:** OneStop Doddington.

Bronze Sponsors: David Barton Potatoes, LK Construction, Rhochi Architecture, The Peterborough School.

Race Sponsorship: There are still plenty of races available to sponsor! For just £10, anyone can sponsor a race and help support the Carnival. Find out more at: www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk/sponsor

Official Photographers

We'd also like to say thank you to March Camera Club, our 'Official Photographers' for Carnival Day 2026.

But the biggest **THANK YOU** needs to go out to all the people, in and around the village, that have helped us to get to where we are with Carnival Day 2026. We really do appreciate everything that you folks do for us year-on-year! From sashes and bows to tractors and trailers, with everything in-between, you are the unsung heroes of the village, and we love you.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Carnival Day, whether you're entering a scarecrow or float, dressing up for the Fancy Dress, taking part in the races, or simply coming along to enjoy the atmosphere of the Parade and Sports Afternoon! We hope there is something for everyone.

See you all there!

www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk

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1st Doddington Scout Group

THANK YOU ALYS



After more than 11 years Alys Turner has made the decision to step back from scouting. Alys is going to be hugely missed by everyone, the leaders who have worked with her, the parents who have entrusted their children into the care of her and her team and of course the young people themselves.

Back in 2013, she and I attended the St George's Day Fair in March and stopped off at the Scouts stand to have a chat, the following month our children started Beavers at 1st Doddington and so the journey began.

In 2015 Alys joined the Group Trustee Board, then known as the Executive Committee, as Secretary, before becoming the Beaver leader 20 months later, a role she really loved, affectionately renaming them the 'blue ninjas'.

She later took on the role of Group Scout Leader, on what was anticipated to be a temporary basis, before taking it on permanently in 2021.



During the 11 plus years since she first joined the Board, she has also taken on roles in addition to the those within the Group. She has been a Training Advisor across the county, helping a large number of volunteers, she became a coach for other Groups within the county when they wanted to open Squirrel Dreys for the youngest members of the scouting family and as a hugely talented IT whizz became a member of the digital support team to help leaders when the Scout Association brought in a new membership system.

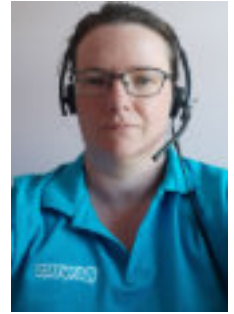
Alys had a very demanding job outside of scouting. Many of us would say we had no idea how she managed to fit her job in with the amount of time she gives to 1st Doddington, when she would regularly attend every weekly session and every camp and sleepover, downtime and sleep appeared to be somewhat of a luxury.

Her dedication has led to the Group going from strength to strength, new volunteers joining which has meant we could offer more opportunities to our young people, and we have been supporting more local community events in Doddington, Wimblington, Benwick and Manea when possible.

"A Scout is not remembered for having the most badges, but for serving others, leading with humility, showing respect and leaving every place better than they found it"

I think the following comments from our adult volunteers show how true this is of Alys.

"Alys demonstrated a positive attitude and dedication to ensure the scouting mantra/sessions continued through covid. Within a week of being told we could not hold face to face meetings Alys set up virtual sessions so scouting could continue, albeit a little differently, and give our young people a fun focal point in the week, this also expanded to virtual camps with families camping in their back gardens and virtual campfires, which were commented on by our members' neighbours. (Sarah R)



"Having only known Alys for just over 2 years, we've only seen a fraction of the impact she has made, but in that time, we've seen first-hand the difference she makes. From our first introduction to Scouts, she was always calm, welcoming and inclusive, making every young person and parent feel part of the group. What stands out most is her ability to connect with everyone and bring people together. She created an environment where children could thrive, volunteers felt supported and the whole group worked as one team. She even gave me the confidence to step up as a leader myself. The growth and success of the group reflects her dedication and leadership. She will be greatly missed." (Kirsty)

"From a leader perspective: I really valued Alys' support, friendship and mentoring, she always made time and offered support from her vast experience over the years. Both my children have been in Scouting, and they have gained so much from their time in the group because of Alys' care and commitment. Alys' impact on the group and on so many young people and families will be felt for a long time to come." (Matt R)

"I met Alys in September 2016 when my eldest son joined Beavers, and I was quickly pulled in to help. Over the last 10 years I've seen her put in so much energy and enthusiasm to organise sessions, events, sleepovers, camps, fundraising, and anything else that may have come up! My children and I have all had so much fun and I am very grateful for the efforts Alys has put in.

I have so many memories of the last 10 years; her patience in supporting young people to do something new, managing camps in both crazy heat and torrential rains, navigating driving the narrow streets of Bruges on an international recce, and walking 100 miles of the Snowdonian slate trail together in 2023 as a fundraiser for the group.



It's a huge thank you from me and my children for all the opportunities, fun and support she's given us over the last 10 years!" (Helen K)

"Alys showed my daughter firelighting skills at 4! She was fantastic with the young people and always striving to ensure they had the best possible opportunities and experiences whilst in our care at 1st Doddington. It has been a pleasure to have volunteered alongside her and to have been a parent of a young person who she has mentored as a section lead." (Laura J)



"Although we only worked together for a short time I thoroughly enjoyed my first year or so at Doddington and Alys made me feel very welcomed and valued as part of the group. Thank you very much for helping me settle in so quickly. She even got me another cub leader, so I didn't have to do it by myself! It's been a pleasure." (Lianne)

"Alys had so much time for every child in Scouts and made each and every one of them feel part of the 1st Doddington family. This welcome extended to all the volunteers as well. It was so much fun leading Beavers with Alys as she really was a big kid at heart! Always up for a bit of dressing up, sleeping in a cardboard fort or potato racing!" (Kate)

"Alys, thanks for all you've done for the scouting group and special thanks for getting me back involved which I had missed" (Gary)

"Jack, Harry and I camped out last night and it got down to 6 degrees, and they didn't care, they loved it and want to do it again. I don't think it would have happened without Alys' help with Jack and making me a leader, as I'm not exactly the most sociable person with anxiety, doing the hike with Kate last year, that never would have happened without her support. I've gone camping mad and bought loads of new gear and am really excited to use it all with the family. (Lee)

"Alys always made every young person feel like they were important and took the time with them individually to ensure they felt at home with 1st Doddington." (Toby)

"I can't remember my primary school teachers from 1983-4. But I can tell you my Akela was Joan Hughes, and her husband Mike and daughter Helen helped a lot.

I can remember cutting up squares of chocolate wearing a woolly hat and rolling a massive wooden dice for the next cub's turn. I can remember cub camp at my district HQ (Runways end), group camp at camp 45 near Aldershot, and County camp at Ferndown in the New Forest. Boiling thimbles of water on match heads

to make tiny cups of tea. My first scout night hike, where I gained my official scout name, which is Wombat, I could even show you the grid ref where Trevor the scout leader shouted at me "A wombat would go faster than you" – and the name stuck for a decade (and my brother calls me it to this day).



40 years on I remember all those things; couldn't tell you what I did at school; but scouts shaped me; taught me teamwork, hard work, and how to pitch a patrol tent.

A whole generation – Gen Alpha – Of Doddington/Wimblington/Manea who, into the 21st century, have been shaped by Alys Turner in one way or another – either directly through scouts, or through their friend group having her Squirrels/ Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers in them. No school class is untouched by her impact and presence. She is a household name in the villages, with most people who have children knowing who she is and what she did. Her impact is literally unmeasurable to the young people of Fenland over the coming decades, and her legacy will last for another two generations." (Iain)

Thank you Alys, for your time, your energy, your enthusiasm, your encouragement and your ability to help people, both adults and young people, recognise they could do more than they thought they could, but most of all making it fun! You have touched so many people's lives and will be greatly missed.



We all wish you all the very best for your next adventure, wherever that may take you.

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**Why wait?
Join today!**

**1st Doddington
Scout Group**

Scouts has so much to offer both Young People & Adult Volunteers - why not join the fun and adventure in 2026!

Contact us to find out more about how Young People aged 4 and up can join, or how you can become involved as an adult volunteer.

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1204134

Nature Recovery in Doddington

This is an opportunity to get involved with nature. Cambridgeshire County Council is working with groups of parishes across the county, including Doddington, to support the creation of a Community Nature Recovery Plan.



This would be a locally led plan, shaped by the people who live in Doddington, that sets out ideas and priorities for improving nature and green spaces in the area.

Why does this matter?

Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature-depleted counties, and there is an ambition to double the amount of land managed for nature.

The local community is a really important part of this because you know your area best! Your knowledge, ideas, and interests can help shape what nature recovery looks like in Doddington.

How can you get involved?

We are currently gauging interest in holding an open evening where you can:


- Find out more about the project
- Share your thoughts and ideas
- Help shape what's taken forward locally

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please contact Clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk to express your interest in an open evening being hosted.

You can also find out more about the wider project here: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/nature-recovery-from-the-ground-up

Stephanie Barrett, Community Nature Engagement Officer
Cambridgeshire County Council

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Annual Cultural Day

Askham Village Community brought together team members, residents, families and friends at the end of May for its annual Cultural Day, a celebration of the diverse cultures, backgrounds and experiences that help make Askham the vibrant and inclusive community it is today.

Held each year, Cultural Day provides an opportunity for colleagues from across the organisation to share their heritage, traditions and cuisines while celebrating the values that bring the Askham community together. This year's event welcomed cultures from around the world, including Lithuania, South Africa, England, India, Mexico, Spain, the Philippines, Kenya, Scotland, Thailand, Wales, Latvia, Italy, France, Ireland, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Team members and their families generously prepared and shared traditional dishes, creating an opportunity for everyone to experience different cultures through food and conversation. There was also music, henna artists, entertainment and activities for all ages.

A particularly memorable moment of the celebration was a traditional dance performance by Manu Magar, Head of Care and Nursing Services, and her family. Their performance brought energy, colour and cultural pride to the event and was warmly received by everyone attending.



Housing with Care Awards 2026

We have also been celebrating a successful evening at the Housing with Care Awards 2026. Held at the Hilton Bankside in London, the awards brought together organisations and professionals from across the sector to celebrate excellence, innovation and positive outcomes for those receiving care and support.

Askham was proudly represented across five award categories:

- Askham Village Community – Housing with Care Employer Award
- Askham Rehab – Outreach Community Service Award
- Tyler Horton – Care Home Cook / Chef Award
- Bev Contaio – Frontline Leaders Award
- Kelly Hayes – Care Home Activity Organiser Award

The evening's standout moment came when Kelly Hayes was announced as winner of The Care Home Activity Organiser Award, recognising her creativity, dedication and commitment to creating meaningful experiences for residents throughout the year.



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Askham Summer Fayre



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Doddington



100th Club

It was a lovely warm afternoon for our June meeting, when we welcomed the children of the Lionel Walden school choir. They entertained us with a vast repertoire of songs ranging from the Lion King to Bon Jovi, they even brought their "air guitars" with them! It was absolutely delightful.

Members then enjoyed an opportunity to have a chat as refreshments were served, followed by the draw. Everyone was reminded about the forthcoming trip to Ely, to be held on 9th July, leaving The Three Tuns at 9.00am and returning at 3.30pm. £12.00 for members, non-members are welcome to join us at £14 each. Contact Heather for more details.

The July meeting will be our summer lunch at The Three Tuns



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



The annual Village Yard Sale was a lovely day with lots of visitors and a great, friendly atmosphere. The Christmas Lights cake stall was very popular with many delicious homemade cakes and was nearly a total sell out. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Lights in exchange for advertising their stalls. We hope you had a great day. Also, many thanks to all the shoppers who visited the stalls and helped make it a success.

We would like to wish the Carnival Committee and the Horticultural Committee every success with their special days in July. We will be present at the Sports Day event on Saturday 4th July and the Summer Show on Saturday 25th July with a stall filled with fun games and prizes for all the family. We will also be selling our Summer 10 week Draw tickets with the first draw taking place on 31st July. This is your opportunity to win one of two prizes of £15 every week for 9 weeks and then another chance to win £100, £50 or £25 in the final week. Tickets are also available in the One Stop shop or you can phone or text to 07935282070 or email doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Thank you once again, for all your support and we look forward to seeing you in July.

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:

Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights



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Doddington 80 Years Ago : July 1946

The National Provincial Bank branch re-opened, it having been closed for the duration of the war.

Whilst it was planned to hold the Horticultural Show again this year, PC Ray Pegg, who was secretary of the Horticultural Society and organised the three previous shows, was transferred to another village at an inopportune time and the new secretary was unable to complete the arrangements in time.

A public meeting agreed that the names of those from the village who had fallen in the Second World War should be added to the memorials in the churchyard and chapel and it was hoped the work would be completed by Remembrance Day, November 11th.

The Annual Children's Sports were again organised by the British Legion Branch and held in Mr Minett's field in Benwick Road. For the first time the Doddington children who did not attend the village school were allowed to compete, as the elder children now attended schools in Chatteris or March. The Senior Boys Cup was won by Jack Wilson with Gerald Fresher runner-up, and the Senior Girls Shield was won by Megan Fisher with Sheila Harding as runner-up. The trophies were presented by Dr Thomas.

The Angling Club was re-formed with Mr GW Jones as chairman and Mr W Hicks as secretary.


A Public meeting was called to discuss the problem of van dwellers living on the Turf Fen. Along with members of the public there were also representatives of the Doddington Parish Council, Chatteris Urban District Council, North Witchford Rural District Council, the Lord of the Manor and one of the van dwellers were also present. It was generally felt that the land should be enclosed but there were ambiguities as to how much of the land was common land and how much was in Chatteris and how much in Doddington. It was eventually decided to refer the matter to the Isle of Ely County Council to resolve.



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Doddington 50 Years Ago : July 1976

Former resident Doddington Policeman George Dodsley retired from the Police Force; he had been at Doddington from 1951 until 1958 when he was promoted to sergeant.

Mr Alan Conway having retired from his role as Consultant Surgeon at Doddington Hospital, The Hermitage, his home for many years was offered for sale as he was moving to Northumberland.

The annual Children's Sports were held on the Lionel Walden School field and organised by Doddington United FC. Trophies were won by Adrian Barlow, Boys Senior Cup; Deborah Jackson, Girls Senior Shield; Russell Moon, Boys Intermediate Cup; Caroline Arniszewski, Girls Intermediate Shield; Christopher Blowers, Boys Junior Cup and Sandra Crowe, Girls Junior Shield. The prizes were presented by Mr Norman Welcher, President of Doddington United FC.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the long hot summer of 1976 entries in the 30th annual Horticultural Show were up on previous years. Mrs O Dickerson was the most successful entrant winning three of the seven trophies



available to adults. Other winners were Mr JA Yorke, Miss PM Peet, Mrs RE Ellington and Mr J Barr. Ruth Clarke won the Children's Cup. The prizes were presented by Mr Alan Conway. *(Can you name anyone in our picture?)*

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THRIFT SHOP



Doddington continues to be a centre of recycling excellence through the monthly Thrift shop!

June's Thrift shop raised a good total of £495 (£120 from cafe sales). Special thanks to March House children's home for generously donating the sausage rolls.

Our extra Sunday opening, on the day of the Yard Sale, raised a further £273 and made it possible for many new villagers to see what the Thrift shop is all about. Of course, the biggest and warmest of thanks goes to our customers, donators and volunteers who make this such a lovely village event each month.

See you at the next one!

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 2nd July - 9am to 1pm**
Dates for 2026: 6/8, 3/9, 1/10, 5/11, 3/12

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