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Dear Residents of Doddington

Anyone who thinks "living in the country" offers a slower pace of life, has obviously never lived in Doddington! There is an air of activity in the village as the warmer weather and longer evenings are here. Even the gardens themselves are producing lots of colour.

There was also lots of colour at this year's all inclusive, Rainbow Run. Children from the Lionel Walden School ran around an obstacle course as the staff covered them with coloured powder paint!

A little more behind the scenes, all sorts of crafts and activities are taking place as we prepare for the arrival of July and a month of "Celebrations" with the carnival and "Competitions" with the Village Show. Well done to the people for working tirelessly each year to put on these events and also well done to our community for supporting them.

The Parish Assembly was held at the end of April, (the report can be found on page 19), when the Chairman paid tribute to the many volunteers in the village. With this in mind and as part of the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community to be held in the church in October, you will see on page 6 that you are being asked to nominate someone who you feel should be recognised for their volunteer work. It could be anyone ... someone who fetches your shopping regularly or cuts your grass to someone who has served our community for many years. Send your nominations to the Diary email address, and we will say "Thank You".

Many residents will have received a communication from Stephen Barclay about the services at Doddington Hospital. The survey can also be completed online, and the links for you to do this can be found on page 39. I am afraid concerns about the hospital are nothing new, as you will see in David's article on page 41!

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



What are the major Christian festivals each year? Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus, is probably the most popular festival, as we all celebrate giving presents to each other. Easter is also popular, giving Easter eggs, celebrating the new life the resurrected Jesus offers. Lesser known is the festival of Pentecost, that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. When I was a child, like Christmas and Easter, we used to have a two-week holiday at Whitsuntide, which is the old name for Pentecost.

We're now in the Pentecost season. Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival fifty days after the Passover feast and it celebrated the first harvests of the year. Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the first disciples of Jesus gathered together praying, and they experienced a spiritual force that felt like both wind and fire at the same time. They found they could speak foreign languages they had never learned, and they went out into Jerusalem, talking about all that God had done during the time Jesus was with them. People who had travelled from across the Mediterranean region heard them speaking in their own languages. The apostle Peter stood up and addressed the large crowd and that day over 3,000 people decided they wanted to be baptised.

Over the years, I and many people I know have experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's as if Jesus himself is present with me, offering me advice, or giving me the words to say. Sometimes I've prayed for people to be healed, and God has healed them. Very often when I'm praying with someone I am meeting with, they also sense the warm, comforting and encouraging presence of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is how the crucified and risen Jesus draws us into the presence of Almighty God. Last Sunday in church we anointed people with oil by marking a cross on their hands... a number of people remarked how profound it was to be prayed for in that way.

Even today, it's possible to get to know who Jesus is, because he continues to give people the gift of his Holy Spirit. As always, if you want to find out more, why not join us on our next Alpha course. It's starting at the end of September. Get in touch if you want to find out more.

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





St Mary's Church Services for JUNE

Sunday 7th June

9.30 am Breakfast Church, Wimblington
10.30 am Holy Communion, Doddington
10.30am *No service at Christchurch*

Tuesday 9th June

1.30 pm Cafe Church, Church Rooms, Doddington

Sunday 14th June

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

Sunday 21st June

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

Sunday 28th June

10.30 am Pet Service, Manea
10.30 am Holy Communion, Wimblington
3.00 pm Holy Communion, Welney

Do you enjoy reading?

Have you read a great book and would like to tell others about it?

Are you in a reading slump and need some inspiration?

Then come and join a book group with a difference. No need to read a particular book every month, just come and chat about the books you have read or heard about, exchange suggestions and maybe get some ideas for your next read ... and of course, there will be tea/ coffee and biscuits!



We are meeting once a month, on a Tuesday afternoon, here in Doddington. Interested? Get in touch: email gabileeson@hotmail.com or call 07940 120630



A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community

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



Volunteers' Week is an annual UK-wide campaign held every year from the first Monday in June to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers.

Launched in 1984, it provides an opportunity for us to recognise and thank all the dedicated volunteers for their invaluable efforts – and we certainly have lots of them here in Doddington.

With this in mind, we thought it would be nice for **YOU** to say Thank you to someone you know who volunteers in Doddington - a bit like the Pride in Fenland awards. There are so many to choose from, but if you are looking for inspiration, just read the long list mentioned in this month's Parish Assembly Report (on page 19).

You can make your nomination by emailing Sally at doddingtondiary@gmail.com

All we will need to know is:-

1. Who is the volunteer?
2. A little bit about why you are nominating them and
3. Your contact details



Our plan is then to share our harvest gifts with the nominees. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.



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Methodist Church

**Sunday 14th June : 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)

**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



At the start of May, a large group of our Guides and Brownies climbed aboard the mini-buses and we headed off to PGL at Bawdsey, Suffolk. PGL is an outdoor adventure centre, this site was a former RAF base, so we all stayed in the original refurbished billet blocks.

On arrival, we were split into groups and started on the list of activities planned for the weekend. Once a couple of activities were completed, girls were very keen to unpack, settle in and look around the site.

During the weekend, we had many goes on the zip wire, as a team we solved the “problem solving” challenges and greatly improved our aero ball and archery skills. We had a go on the giant swing, which allowed a couple of girls at a time to go on (held on with a harness) whilst the remaining group pulled the rope to pull the swing back. Once at preferred height the swing was released.



Many of the girls (again in a harness) set off to climb up Jacobs’s ladder. This is a very tall structure with widely spaced rungs. The rungs demanded a lot of upper body strength to pull yourself up, especially challenging for the younger Brownies. A few brave ladies were very proud to make it to the top.



A favourite activity was the canoeing. Girls were very keen to get the lifejackets on and to get out on the water. Once launched in their canoe, it didn’t take them long to start exploring the large lake. Games were played and some challenges set, eg standing up in the Canoe! Two of the Guides, we will call F and P kept “accidentally” falling into the water, their Canoe seemed very unstable!



Everyone had a brilliant, fun filled, adventurous weekend. The mini-buses home were full of happy, sleepy girls who had gained more confidence, worked together, helped and encouraged each other.

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Just one final comment: We were told many times over the weekend that PGL stood for Parents Get Lost but we witnessed everyone challenging themselves, trying new things so we think PGL stands for Proud Girlguiding Leaders!

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



Sip & Paint Evening

Come and have a **Giraffe** painting your own!

@ The Pavilion, Benwick Rd, Doddington

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

Friday 12th June 7.00pm

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The Hidden Danger of Adding Your Children to Your House

It often begins with good intentions.
An older parent wants to “make things easier” for the family.

Someone suggests adding an adult child onto the title deeds of the home to avoid probate or inheritance tax. It sounds simple, practical, and harmless.



But this well-meaning decision can create risks that many families never see coming.

You May Be Giving Away More Than You Realise

Once another person becomes a legal owner of your property, their circumstances can begin affecting your home.

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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Peer Support Group

Are you caring for someone with dementia?
 Would you like to meet other carers but cannot
 leave your home? Do you feel isolated? Why
 not consider joining one of our virtual peer
 support groups?



Our groups meet for one hour every week over seven weeks. As well as providing you with the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation, our highly trained staff are there to offer you information and assistance. Each week, we catch up on how the week has gone and then we discuss a theme. These include communication, behaviour and relationships, as well as the importance of looking after yourself.

If you are interested in joining a Peer Support Group, or would like more information, please call us on 01223 620962 or email cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk.

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Women's Institute



The May meeting started with Mia Hanssen describing how since 2016 she has been faithfully recreating the Bayeux Tapestry. She showed us on screen her journey from learning to sew with her grandmother in Sweden to making embroideries for friends before she started on this mammoth project. We learnt that only seven colours are used on the Tapestry, that there are quirky interpretations that you only notice when studying it as closely as she has, and that she has only used one needle so far! Mia has completed 58 metres, another 10 metres to sew and when finished it will weigh 25 kilos. She has also written books on the subject and compiled colouring-in books. An inspiring woman.

After refreshments served by Jo Dale and Ann Bosworth we conducted the business of the evening. Sally Shortland reported on a recent Isle of Ely meeting when the speaker was Elizabeth Talbot who appears on TV in programmes such as Flog It. Elizabeth told of her life as an auctioneer.

There were reminders of forthcoming events including the Federation Summer Show where we are entering a display depicting a wartime wedding. It was agreed that the Institute should become a Friend to the Horticultural Society Show. Sally Graham asked for help with refreshments for the Church Flower Festival in October.

There was discussion on the resolutions being put forward to the National AGM. Elaine Stratford spoke for action on women's homelessness and Sally Shortland for the provision of accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion. Members voted in favour of both resolutions.

Mia Hanssen judged the competition for a piece of textile art; two members received 20 points. Kathy Streets conducted the raffle.

At the next meeting on Thursday 4th June the speaker will be Kate Hunt from the RNLI and the competition is for a small boat.

Later in the month we held a successful Plant and Cake Sale at the Methodist Chapel and thanks go to the bakers and gardeners for their input and to the helpers on the day. We also served tea and coffee which made it a nice sociable event.

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

Horticultural Society

79th Annual Village Summer Show – Saturday 25th July 2026



The committee members are all working hard making plans for the Annual Village Summer Show to be held on Saturday 25th July at The Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Benwick Road, Doddington.

We need more volunteers to help us set up on Friday afternoon and on the Saturday. If you can spare a couple of hours, please get in touch. This year will be our 79th annual show and once again we are holding it in the large marquee, the pavilion, and the recreation field. The event is open to all – whether you are exhibiting or not.

We are hoping for another bumper event with lots of entries in all sections, lots of visitors and another fun night in the marquee. We really hope you will get involved and support your local show – there will be lots going on for all the family.

With only a few weeks to go, now is the time to start thinking about your entries and if you are not sure what to do, on the day there will be help on hand to guide you through the process. We have classes for fruit, vegetables, flowers, baking, preserves, arts, crafts, models and photography and a full programme of children's classes in five age groups. The schedule of classes and programme of events are available now. Pick up a copy in the shops and various other groups around the village. We have lots of trophies to win and prize money on offer.

Thank you to all our sponsors and the Doddington Diary for kindly hosting the schedule again on its website in the What's On section:

<https://www.doddingtondiary.co.uk/whats-on>

We will be accepting entries on the Friday evening (24th) from 5pm to 7.00pm and early on the Saturday morning (from 7.30am to 9am prompt) to allow judging to start at 9.30am.

Outside the marquee we will have lots of local crafts, stalls, and activities. We are hosting a **Fun Dog Show** from 12midday with classes for all your

dogs, and rosettes to be won. Booking in for the dog show starts at 12midday.

There will be refreshments available – including our usual teas and cakes, burgers, ice creams and a lot of surprises. We open to the public at 12.30pm (Adults £1, Children Free), and the marquee will open for viewing from 1pm.

Before the show closes at around 3pm there will be a “Buy A Hamper” event when we sell fruit, vegetables, cakes and produce all kindly donated by exhibitors. In the evening the marquee will transform to host a **Family Bingo Night**. Eyes down at 7.30pm. You can bring a picnic supper and drinks - or purchase burgers and chips from Finchy's the caterer. Buy your bingo cards on the door.



Don't forget our **Grand Prize Draw** – First prize £100, Second prize £50 and Third prize £25 plus lots of other prizes. Tickets are on sale now and it will be drawn at the Bingo.

Keep an eye out for the latest show news on the Community Notice Boards in the village bus shelters and on Facebook “Doddington Village Summer Show”.

**More information from: 07757 730425 and 07815 462796
or email Doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com**

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It was to our amazement that, after recent cold weather 16 people still turned up to play croquet. We were pleasantly surprised when the sun came out and we had a very nice afternoon.



We are slowly recovering our skills at running hoops after the long winter break, and we are hoping that the recent rain will improve the lawn which has suffered so badly from the drought.

We meet every Thursday, 4pm at The Pavilion. We welcome anybody who would like to give the game a try and to meet others for a sociable afternoon.

For more information contact us on croquet@fieldsendwater.co.uk or telephone Duncan on 07932122235 or Vicky on 07769652449.



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Parish Council Report

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council

Ruth Hufton and Hilton Fisher were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair for a further twelve months.

Appointment of Clerk to the Parish Council

Roger Wilkin, the holder of the existing role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, is relinquishing his Clerk's role but will retain the Financial Officer duties. We thank Roger for his excellent stewardship of the Clerk role over many years and are very pleased that he will not only be available to help our new Clerk but continue to ensure that the Parish finances are in very good hands. We are delighted to welcome Abbey Barnes, who has been appointed to the Clerk's position and will take up her duties during June.

Village Improvements

The nine new public seats, replacing those around the village, have now been installed. The old seats are being made available to residents free of charge. No guarantee over their condition is given! If you are interested in acquiring one or more of these, please contact the Clerk by email at clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Walkway through the tree lined boundary of the Abbey Rec Ground

Work has started in clearing the brambles and undergrowth through the tree area in order to create a pleasant natural walk around the boundary of the recreation ground that is sited at the end of Beech Avenue.

The Parish Council's website can be viewed at

www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

where there is also a contact page for the Clerk of the Parish Council
office hours are usually

Monday to Thursday 9.30-12.30 (Outside of statutory holidays)

You can also contact the Chair on 01354 740323 or 07787 631153

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

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Annual Parish Assembly - Report

This year the Parish Council decided to dispense with the formalities of an Annual Parish Assembly, and use the opportunity to celebrate the vast number of clubs and groups that flourish here, by inviting the volunteers who give their time, expertise, enthusiasm and lots of hard work to ensure that Doddington is a welcoming, exciting, warm, safe and thriving community to live in.

We are very proud of the variety of events that occur each year to brighten our lives, showcase our expertise, and give us all something to look forward to throughout the seasons. What would Doddington be without the Christmas Lights (Best in Fenland!!!), the Carnival and Sports day, the Summer Show, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Thrift Shop, the Doddington Diary, the WI, the Scouts and Guides, the Street Pride Group, the Community Living Room, the 100th Club, the Recreation Committee and Pavilion, the Abbey field, the Croquet Club, the Village Hall and the groups that give their members chance to express their creativity through crafting and painting.

We also need to remember the many unknown and unsung people who look after small patches of ground in the village, keeping them weed free, and full of flowers and shrubs, plus the people who maintain the places of happy events, celebrations, quiet reflection and peaceful prayer that are the Methodist Chapel, where we meet tonight and our beautiful St. Mary's Church.

Where would we be without the commitment and enthusiasm of all the residents who maintain and grow all of these institutions, I think you will agree that we owe you all our thanks in abundance for what you do.

I must mention some of the things that your Parish Council has done during the last twelve, really busy, months. We have replaced all the parish-owned seats with new ecofriendly ones, and added others at the Village Sign, on Policeman's corner and at the pavilion at Abbey Field, against the outdoor gym. We have arranged for a further bus shelter to be built on Benwick Road near the entrance to the Hospital and MIU, and we are about to take delivery of a Red Telephone Box which will be situated on High Street and will then allow us to have a dedicated book swop. The Abbey field now benefits from a Zip Wire and a conical rope climber, adding to the other facilities already available there, including the Abbey Club House, which has undergone a major refit and is now ready for letting.

Our Neighbourhood Plan, which is vital to the future of Doddington is "well on plan", and my thanks go to all those who have spent many hours over the last three years, and are still beavering away towards its conclusion which, hopefully we may see come to fruition shortly.

So – a big thank you from myself, the Clerk and members of the Parish Council for everything that you do to make us a community that is a pleasure to live in, and very much worth coming home to.

Doddington Recreation Committee

You may have noticed that the bins at the back of the field near the entrance to the Pocket Park, along with the the one between the dugouts, have now been removed. These bins were usually emptied by our volunteers and were not a popular task. The committee agreed there are now sufficient bins available, with a new dog poo bin installed by the council at the entrance to the field and another located on Primrose Hill by the gate to the Pocket Park.

We would like to thank everyone who walks their dogs and clears up after them, and although the vast majority of people do, unfortunately there are still some who do not. May we kindly remind everyone that the field operates a **no dog policy**. This is because the field is used for children's parties as well as children and adult's football. Even when mess is picked up, residue can remain, which is not nice and a potential health hazard. Please keep dogs to the footpath that runs alongside the field.

Our next Prize Bingo will take place on Thursday 18th June. Doors open at 7.00pm for eyes down at 7.30pm. Come along for a friendly evening with great grocery prizes and good company.



The Pavilion is available to hire and is a great venue for summer children's parties, with easy access to the field and plenty of space for outdoor games. Please contact us for availability and further details.

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

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

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

<h1>SlimmingWorld</h1>	
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Preparations are now well underway for Carnival Day 2026, which takes place on **Saturday 4th July 2026**. This year is extra special, as it marks the 40th year of the modern Doddington Carnival!

The theme for 2026 is “Celebrations”, and we are looking forward to seeing the village filled with colour, creativity and community spirit once again.

Earlier this year, at the Selection Disco, we were delighted to welcome our new **Carnival Prince and Princess**. After another fantastic evening enjoyed by lots of local children, the names of two children were drawn from a hat and they will now represent the Carnival throughout the year and take part in Carnival Day itself.

Prince Hunter: Hunter loves football and trains three times a week, playing matches every Saturday. He has been lucky enough to play against clubs such as Chelsea, West Ham, and Leicester City. At school, his favourite subject is PE, which reflects his passion for sport and being active. Hunter is incredibly excited and proud to have been chosen as Carnival Prince. Having been on the carnival floats before, he already knows how special the event is and what an honour it is to represent his lovely school and be part of such an important community occasion.



Princess Daisy: I am very lucky to be carnival princess, as it was my last year being able to take part in the tradition! At school I love maths because I like challenging myself and want to have a good career when I'm older. I also love sports, especially football. I love socialising with other people whether it's my football team or my friends and family. I love going out and having fun with my friends down at the park, football training and playing matches with my team! I also love being creative and trying out new styles, doing my hair and makeup.



40th Birthday! To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are hoping to invite as many previous Doddington Carnival Princes and Princesses as possible to return and appear together on a special float in this year's Carnival Parade. If you were previously crowned Prince or Princess and would like to take part, please do get in touch with us.

The ever-popular **Scarecrow Competition** will also be returning, and we would love to see even more entries appearing around the village



this year. Whether you are building as a family, individual, club or organisation, now is the perfect time to start planning and building your scarecrow creations.

Carnival Day itself will once again be packed with activities and entertainment throughout the day.

- 09:30 - The road through the village will close.
- 09:45 - The Fancy Dress Competition begins.
- 10:00 - Floats will assemble, before making their way through the village.
- 12:30 - The road will re-open.
- 12:30 - The Children's Sports Afternoon on the recreation field will open.
- 14:00 - The children's races begin.

Sports Afternoon: This year's field attractions will include more than 30 stalls, along with activities such as Land Zorbing and Insane Terrain. Visitors will also have the opportunity to try a range of sports and activities provided by local clubs and organisations including Bounce Fitness, Chatteris Tennis, Doddington Football, March Hockey, RKA Kickboxing, Southpaws Boxing and Whittlesey Warriors.

Sponsors: We would also like to thank our current sponsors for supporting Doddington Carnival 2026. Our Gold Sponsor is **Smurfit Westrock**, and there's a full write-up about them on our website: www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk/blog/Smurfit-Westrock-becomes-Gold-Sponsor-for-Doddington-Carnival-2026 Our Bronze Sponsors currently include David Barton Potatoes Ltd, Rhochi Architecture & Design Ltd and L K Construction Ltd.



Sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses wishing to support the Carnival, including:

- Gold / Silver Bronze sponsorship packages
- Field banner sponsorship
- Race sponsorship

As always, thank you to everyone in the village for your continued support. We're looking forward to another fantastic Carnival Day in 2026!

www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk
www.facebook.com/doddingtoncarnivalandsports

Neighbourhood Plan

The Group is currently going through the next stage where we consider all the feedback from the open consultation. We are grateful to all the stakeholders and residents who took time to provide us with their comments and suggestions.



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

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

We will keep you updated with progress. Please Tel: 07815 462796 r email

cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.

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Craft Group



Doddington Village Craft Group held their first full day workshop in May, making patchwork style jackets from sweatshirts. Where did the idea come from? Let's just say that social media has a lot to answer for.

We began our preparations at our usual Monday evening meeting, cutting fabric into strips and deconstructing sweatshirts to use as the base for the jackets. The following Saturday, fuelled by cake and unwavering faith in the brief instructions we found in an online video, we stitched, sang and laughed our way through the day. Jackets are still being finished, so watch this space for an update next month.



If you'd like to join us for relaxed, friendly, arty-crafty evenings, please get in touch with Vicky Gorry on 07539 675655.








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1st Doddington Scout Group

The Summer term has arrived, the term when hopefully we can be more certain of the weather, but if not we'll just pop on the waterproofs! Since Easter our sections have packed a lot in.



Squirrels – have caught the international bug. With some of our Scouts and Explorers going off to Holland in August our Squirrels have tested some Dutch food for them, made windmills and learnt to count to 5 in Dutch. They have also been learning knots and recreating the Scout World Membership badge, making fruit kebabs and finding out where food comes from. They had a fab night when they were visited by a dog and a chicken, they got to touch them, if they wanted to, and find out how to care for them.

Beavers – celebrated St George's Day and Earth Day. St George's Day is an important day in Scouting and members of the Group were also invited to join the celebrations in March to renew their promise and be in the parade through the town centre. Earth Day gave our Beavers the opportunity to discuss how we can help to protect our surroundings and how small changes can make a difference. Beavers had a fabulous visit to Askham House, they met some of the residents and enjoyed a lovely evening reading with them before finding out about the different types of equipment that they use to make their lives easier and help them to do things they wouldn't be able to do without the adaptations.

Cubs – have been prepping for the water activity season. Before we let them on the water, we need to make sure they can build a raft that will stay afloat and not fall apart once they climb on board. They all had a great time practising the build, so are now ready when the water sessions start. Our Cubs had the amazing chance to visit Wildfell Farm in Ramsey during lambing season, they walked round the working farm, quizzing the farmer as they went, watched some young bulls and then, as if it was all planned, they witnessed a lamb being born, one for the memory banks. The evening was finished off by having the opportunity to feed the young lambs. They really did have a great time.



Scouts – have been making the most of the lighter evenings. They started the summer term with an incident hike, taking on different challenges as they completed the route. A firm favourite for our Scouts is 'wide games night', it is so handy having our District Campsite just down the road in March to give us the space for these games. Fire lighting and cooking skills have been tested in our Ready Steady Cook evening, with some delicious meals being prepared. In

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addition to the Cubs, water activities are also on the minds of our Scouts. They too have done their raft building practice, so if you happen to be walking along the river in March this summer watch out for groups of Cubs and Scouts having fun on the water.

Explorers – have been to Gault Wood testing their hashing skills. Don't worry, I'm with you, I didn't know what it was either, so I did some research as I was unable to join them on the night. It is a form of trail setting using sawdust. A fun night was had by all, and I can confirm no Explorers were lost during this activity. Explorers are our eldest section, so to help prepare them for their futures we have revisited money skills with them, using practical everyday examples to help.

Thank you – we would like to say a huge thank you to our very kind and generous sponsors for our Family Race Night, and to everyone who either donated a raffle prize or came along to the event, we really are hugely grateful. All funds raised will help towards our trip to Holland.

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



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Contact us to find out how to get involved.

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

facebook.com/DoddingtonScouts

1st Doddington Scout Group - Registered Charity Number: 1204134

Love It, Hate It, Shape It - Survey Findings

New findings from community engagement in Doddington have revealed what local people value most about the village, as well as the issues they most want to see addressed.

Through the **Love It, Hate It, Shape It** project, residents were invited to share their views on life in Doddington, including what they appreciate about the village, what they feel is not working, and what changes they would like to see in future. Responses were gathered during summer and autumn 2025 from people who live, work, study or regularly spend time in the village.

The findings show that residents strongly value Doddington's **community spirit, rural setting and local character**. Many described the village as friendly, welcoming and peaceful, with a strong sense of neighbourliness and pride in its green spaces and identity.

At the same time, the feedback highlighted a few recurring concerns. The most raised issues included **poor pavements and footpaths, accessibility challenges, road safety, traffic and parking problems, limited public transport, and a lack of activities and amenities for young people**.

A wide range of suggestions were put forward by respondents, including improved footpaths, dropped kerbs, better lighting, safer road crossings, more youth activities, stronger transport links and local amenities such as shops, cafés and meeting places. The feedback points to a strong level of community engagement and a clear interest in the future of the village.

Many residents said they had heard about the project through **Doddington Diary**, helping to spread awareness and encourage local participation.

Sarah Hall, who helped bring the project together, said "As local Communities Officer for Support Fenland, it was a real privilege to work in Doddington and learn more about what happens there and the people who live and work there. The survey responses reinforced what was already known about the village but also brought up a few surprises. It highlighted actions and improvements for the community to work on for the benefit of all living and working there. Many thanks to Doddington Diary for publishing it, the two local shops and the pub, for collecting the responses, the Parish Council for their support and of course, the people of Doddington for taking part."

For more information, please contact: Sarah Hall
Sarah@supportcambridgeshire.org.uk

Lower Limb Trauma Pathway



Askham Rehab is proud to announce the launch of its Lower Limb Trauma Pathway, where we will be working with other organisations to improve the long-term independence for individuals recovering from complex lower limb injuries.



At the launch we welcomed healthcare professionals from across the region, to hear from those directly involved in its development, and experience the Askham Rehab environment at first-hand. At its

core, the Lower Limb Trauma Pathway integrates physiotherapy, occupational therapy, plus prosthetic and orthotic expertise in a structured way to support individuals at every stage of their recovery journey.

A highlight of the event was when a patient shared their experience of the realities of rehabilitation and the importance of a well-connected, multidisciplinary approach.

For further information, referrals or partnership enquiries about the Lower Limb Trauma Pathway, please contact Askham Rehab at info@askhamrehab.com or 01354 740269.

International Nurses Day - 12th May 2026

International Nurses Day was marked across Askham with heartfelt appreciation from residents, patients, families and colleagues. Residents prepared handmade cards, thoughtful messages and small gifts for the nursing teams as a gesture of thanks for the care, kindness and reassurance they provide throughout the year.

At Askham, we feel that nursing is about far more than clinical care alone. It is about building trust, creating stability and supporting people with dignity and compassion through every stage of their journey. Today, and every day, we thank our nurses for the extraordinary work they do and the lasting difference they continue to make across our community.



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Askham

Biodiversity within the Parish

Doddington and Wimblington Parishes lie within an area that encompasses both Fen and Highland, much of the fen area lying at or below sea level. All the rainwater and discharge that falls in the Parishes has to be evacuated to the sea, otherwise the fen would be flooded and then the villages would become Islands. For this purpose the Parishes are served by four Internal Drainage Boards (IDB), all being pumped into the Middle Level system from whence, via St Germans pumping station, to the sea.



Each of these boards have statutory duties and one of increasing importance is making plans to enhance the environment for species that exist within our area and their identification.

Each board will have a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in operation which outlines the measures that the Board will undertake. I, being chairman of the Ransonmoor District Drainage Commissioners, which covers the area to the Northwest of the Parishes, am in the process of approving an updated version which the Board will be very excited to share with the community. The BAP is available from our website www.middlelevel.gov.uk/Ransonmoor-4

The plan details a full audit of all the habitats of biodiversity value within the drainage district and species of note that have been recorded, and importantly, the ways that the IDB aims to help to conserve and enhance them.

HOWEVER! We need help! Many of the maps and data that are used to inform conservation approaches nationwide are out of date or incomplete. We cannot protect or enhance something that we don't know we have. You can help to change this!

We encourage everyone to record and report your wildlife sightings while you are out and about in the local area. The **iRecord App** is a really quick and simple mobile app that lets you enter details of what you've spotted including photos, as you see them. We've set up a group in the iRecord App called **Ransonmoor IDB BAP** and would love you to join the group and start recording what you see. There are some species we are particularly interested in, and they are detailed in the BAP and a few are mentioned below, but ALL species sightings are good and welcome. We look forward to seeing what you've spotted, and we will keep you updated with all that has been reported!

We are also interested to know of any non-native species that you may spot such as mink, himalayan balsam, japanese knotweed or floating pennywort etc especially if they are near a watercourse.

The species we are keen to find are common elm trees, black poplars, dark leaved willows, otters, bats, kingfisher nest sites, barn owls, frogs and toads. And, for those who fish, eels and spined loach.

For more information, please contact Sofi Lloyd at Middle Level Commissioners on 01354 653232 Duncan Boughton Chairman Ransonmoor DDC 07932122235



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100th Club

Our monthly meeting was held, as usual, on the third Thursday of the month, at the Pavilion. The May speaker was Jerry Porter from Mid Anglia General Practitioners Accident Service (MAGPAS), based at Alconbury Weald, who gave an excellent presentation on the daily routines of the crews, which consist of a Doctor, critical care paramedic, pilot and technician.

The service was founded in 1971 by two Cambridgeshire GPs, Dr. Neville Silverston and Dr. Derek Cracknell. Inspired by similar schemes, they created a voluntary network of family doctors to treat victims of road traffic accidents at the scene. 2025 was their busiest year yet, and most calls are for cardiac arrest.

Magpas Air Ambulance receives no regular state funding and they can only provide lifesaving care thanks to the generous donations of their supporters who raise the necessary millions of pounds each year. We were pleased to give them a donation of £260 from our members.

Refreshments were then served. Members were asked to start collecting bottles for our bottle stall, which will be held at the Village Show in July.

Our next meeting on Thursday 18th June will be Lionel Walden school choir, then summer lunch at The Three Tuns on Thursday 16th July.



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



Parish Council Defibrillators can be found at:

Kingsland Close, Newgate Street : (At the Gateway)
 The Three Tuns : (Left of main entrance)
 The Village Hall, Benwick Road : (Right of main entrance)
 Reflections by Charlotte, High Street : (Wall outside)
 Abbey Field Club House, Beech Avenue : (Left of main door)

There are two more indoors that are not owned by the Parish Council, and they can be found at:

Benwick Road Pavilion : (In the kitchen)
 Fenland Group Practice Surgery, Benwick Road



Found out all about Defibrillators and how to use them at
www.doddingtondiary.co.uk/whats-on



Christmas Lights

There are still a few days left to register your address on the maps for the **DODDINGTON VILLAGE YARD SALE** on **SUNDAY 7TH JUNE**. Our deadline for printing the maps is 3rd June, so please let us know before then.

Why not come along to browse the bargains around the village. Don't forget to drop in at 1 High Street to get some beautiful home-made cakes and treats for all the family. The Thrift Shop will also be open in the Church Rooms.

Tickets for the **10 WEEK SUMMER DRAW** are now available at The One Stop and will be available during the Yard Sale on 7th June at 1 High St and 37 Wood Street.

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Sunday 7th June 2026
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A £5.00 donation for your stall, towards the Christmas Lights fund, would be appreciated and this will guarantee that you are on the map!
Buyers: Maps will be available FOC in the Village One Stop Shop and available on our social media Facebook page.

We will also be at the Recreation Ground for the Carnival Sports Day and the Summer Show in July. The odds are great, your tickets are entered for every draw. Two tickets are drawn each week from 31st July for a prize of £15 each and then the final draw on 2nd October has three prizes of £100, £50 and £25.

We are now taking bookings for the Christmas Fair on 21st November 2026. Sell your craft items at this very popular event. Contact us for a booking form as soon as possible in order to secure your place.

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:

Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights



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Doddington Hospital Services

Many residents continue to highlight how much they value Doddington Hospital and the role it plays in local healthcare. At the same time, concerns have been raised about recent service changes. Dermatology clinics that were previously delivered at Doddington have now stopped and are being moved to already busy GP surgeries, while audiology services are currently paused.



To build a clear picture of how people use Doddington Hospital, I am inviting residents to share their experiences in a survey on my website at stevebarclay.net/news/doddingtonhospital or by using the QR code provided. The responses will help create an evidence-based understanding of local need and will support ongoing discussions with NHS leaders about the importance of maintaining accessible services for our community.



Thank you to everyone who takes the time to contribute. Your views will help shape the future of local healthcare provision.

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Doddington 80 Years Ago : June 1946

The official Victory celebrations took place on June 8th. A peal was rung on the church bells at 11am and sports were held in the field next to the Hermitage in Benwick Road. A decorated bicycle competition was won by Marion Collins with Margaret Behagg second and Robert Miller third. There was a tea for the children in the British Legion Hall, followed by a Punch and Judy show. The afternoon sports were curtailed by rain, but a family party with music and dancing continued in the hall. The fancy dress competition was won by Janet Miller as a double-six domino, with Tony Hill as a Chinese boy second and Anne Winters as a Dutch girl third. Each child present under five years of age received a shilling and older children one shilling and sixpence. Each child also received a souvenir badge.



The Doddington and District Nursing Cup committee presented the District Nursing Association with £115 raised during this years football competition.

In the King's Birthday Honours List Mr RT Wesley of Coney House, Benwick Road received an O.B.E. for his work as Executive Officer of the Isle of Ely War Agricultural Executive Committee.

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Doddington 50 Years Ago : June 1976

A new Scout troop for Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick was formed under leader Peter Reynolds and assistant leader Father George Harris. Trevor Richmond was thanked for keeping the Cubs going during the period the scouts had been in abeyance. Fourteen boys joined at the first meeting.

An 18 bed geriatric ward opened at Doddington Hospital raising fears that the whole hospital would soon be for geriatric patients only, but Matron Mr Leslie Beazley stated that after further conversion work 47 beds would be available for surgical cases, compared with 41 in the past. The three other wards would remain as acute wards.

The annual Doddington Hospital fete was opened by actor Sam Kydd. Amongst the attractions were displays by the Vera Francis School of Dancing and the March Hereward School gymnastics team.

Father Harris set up a council for young churchgoers for those aged 12 to 16, those under 17 not being allowed to sit on the Parochial Church Council, he thought it would allow them to express their ideas for the future of the Church.

Doddington 100 years ago : June 1926

In a post script to the First World War, the remains of Private William Osborne Woodbine, 58th Bn Canadian Infantry, who had died during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, were found and identified in France. William was born in Doddington, the son of Mr and Mrs S Woodbine, but had emigrated to Canada in 1912. His remains were identified from a ring bearing his initials, which was remembered by his friend Mr M Dack then landlord of the Three Tuns.

To be continued....David Edwards

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THRIFT SHOP



Doddington continues to be a centre of recycling excellence through the monthly Thrift shop! May's Thrift Shop raised a super high total of £839 (£181 from cafe sales) and a special thanks to March House children's home for generously donating the sausage rolls. 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. Our next shop will be 4th June 9am to 1pm.

We're also having an extra opening on **Sunday 7th June 10am to 1pm** to coincide with Doddington Yard sale. There will be fresh bacon rolls and drinks - so see you there!

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 4th June - 9am to 1pm**
Dates for 2026: 2/7, 6/8, 3/9, 1/10, 5/11, 3/12

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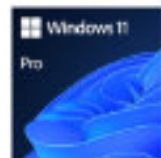
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PC's to Specification





DODDINGTON VILLAGE

SPORTS & CARNIVAL DAY

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026



ROAD CLOSURE: 9:30 AM



FANCY DRESS JUDGING: 9:45 AM



**CARNIVAL PARADE
FROM: 10:00 AM**

Join us for a fantastic parade of floats through the village!

★ AFTERNOON FAMILY FUN! ★

📍 THE PAVILION & RECREATION GROUND, BENWICK ROAD



**FIELD OPENS:
12:00 PM**



**CHILDREN'S RACES
START: 2:00 PM**



CHILDREN'S SPORTS AFTERNOON



STALLS & ACTIVITIES



SPORTS & ATTRACTIONS



FOOD & DRINK



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



SCAN ME
FOR MORE INFO!

Find us on:

