

Doddington DIARY



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2026

EASTER REWARDS!



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Dear Residents of Doddington

It is shocking to think how quickly the months fly past, here we are already getting ready for May!!

I hope everyone had a good Easter, there was certainly lots going on. It was good to see so many children out enjoying the Easter Egg hunt even though it wasn't as warm as some years, there was no rain and the Sip and Paint evening was more popular than ever, even though the "artists" were tested this time as they painted spring flowers.

The Easter Sunday service in St Mary's Church, with the rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus was well received by the congregation and was extensively covered on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, making their Easter Day news at 1 o'clock and two interviews with David Edwards and Canon Mark Collinson on Easter Monday. The full story can now be found on the history page of our website under "BBC Broadcast 1926" and the 2026 singing can be found on our Whats-On page, so if you missed it you can enjoy it now! Well done to everyone involved, especially David for bringing it to our attention!

Celebrations is the theme for this year's Carnival, so get thinking about your scarecrows and floats. For various reasons, the parade now contains more tractors and trailers, which are obviously not as big as the lorries - so they don't take as much decorating - hopefully that will encourage smaller groups and families to get involved. Contact the Carnival committee for more information.

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

From Sally, the Editor

Doddington Diary Deadlines and Contact Details

Doddington Diary website: www.doddingtondiary.co.uk

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

Contact us by Email: doddingtondiary@gmail.com

Contact us by Post: 29 Bevills Close, Doddington. PE15 0TT

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A Message from the Rector



Thanks to local historian David Edwards delving into the archives of the Radio Times, we learned that Easter 1926 was a big event in Doddington, when 15 minutes of Handel's Messiah, performed in the church by a 50 strong choir, was broadcast across the nation on BBC radio.

It was suggested that we might recreate the moment by singing part of Handel's Messiah in this year's Easter Sunday service. Thanks to Alison, Rosie, Elizabeth, Andrew, Susan and Sarah, the suggestion became a reality. It's rather lovely that Andrew's grandfather was in that 1926 choir.

If you were lazing around late on that sunny Easter Monday morning listening to Radio Cambridgeshire, you might have heard David and me sharing this story. The radio reporter asked me what question I would like to ask the choir if I could go back in time. My answer is, "What difference does it make to you to sing Handel's Messiah?" How does singing about Jesus' resurrection change how you feel about life?



On Easter Sunday, we read about how Mary's life was utterly transformed when she met the risen Jesus. She was devastated by Jesus's execution on the cross on Good Friday, but then her life filled with hope when she met the risen Jesus on the first Easter Day.

Although it didn't make logical sense that Jesus came back to life, and no-one expected that he would, the surprise on the disciples faces when they and hundreds of other people met the risen Jesus turned his life, death and resurrection into a historic moment. They witnessed something remarkable - news that has spread around the world and that has been at the heart of our village church for over 800 years.

Handel is just one artist out of thousands who was inspired by Jesus' resurrection, when he set the words, 'I know that my Redeemer lives' to music. Christians believe that we can talk to the risen Jesus when we pray. He brings us hope and peace, and gives us the strength to get through difficult times in our lives. When we gather in church on Sunday at 10:30 we find a bit of peace, recentre, and refuel. If you feel you need that, come and join us.

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



St Mary's Church Services for MAY

Sunday 3rd May

9.30 am

Breakfast Church, Wimblington

10.30 am

Holy Communion, Doddington

10.30 am

Morning Prayer, Christchurch

Sunday 10th May

10.30 am

Holy Communion, Manea

10.30 am

Morning Prayer, Wimblington

3.00 pm

Holy Communion, Benwick

Tuesday 12th May

1.30 pm

Cafe Church, Church Rooms, Doddington

Sunday 17th May

10.30 am

Morning Prayer, Doddington

10.30 am

Holy Communion, Christchurch

Sunday 24th May (Pentecost)

10.30 am

Morning Prayer, Manea

10.30 am

Holy Communion, Wimblington

3.00 pm

Holy Communion, Welney

Sunday 31st May

10.30 am

United Benefice Holy Communion, Christchurch



**A Celebration of Harvest,
Flowers and Community**



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

There has been lots of coffee and chat already as we discuss plans for this weekend of Celebration! Not only will we be following a traditional celebration of harvest, over the next few weeks all of the groups and organisations in the village will be invited to get involved with a celebration of their choice in flowers! We also have some of ideas of activities that will involve different skills, like painting or making corn dollies - we will share more information as these plans take shape!



We are also looking for an artistic / creative bread maker! If you would like to create a sheaf of corn loaf for us, we would love to hear from you. It will be purely decorative, so it doesn't matter what it tastes like. If you are interested, please contact us at doddingtondiary@gmail.com Thank you!

Clerk to the Parish Council

Calling all organisations and individuals that contact the Parish Council - please note the correct email address for the Clerk is:



clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Over the next few weeks the previous address of clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.org.uk will become obsolete and lost forever, so now is a good time to make sure you have the correct address!

Thank you

Thank you David Curtis

David was an integral part of the Doddington community as a resident for over fifty years. He embraced village life becoming part of the sports and carnival committee in 1985 and later became chairman. Alongside his late wife Christine, David was part of the first Doddington recreation committee which oversaw the erection of what we now know as the Pavillion. This is where he enjoyed many hours playing bowls with his late wife and later joined the outdoor bowls committee.



David was a founder member of the Doddington Christmas light committee which he worked tirelessly for over twenty years, manufacturing silhouettes in his garage, in a bid to make Doddington the best lit village in Fenland.

David loved gardening and this fed into his love for the Horticultural show; every year he would enter his Dahlias and he won many, many cups for his efforts. In his later years, he enjoyed sitting with a coffee and a sausage roll in the Thrift shop accompanied by with his friends who named themselves 'the last of the summer wine'.

David's main interest in life however lied with his family and his daughter Anna went on to share many of her dad's passions. The village is a better place for people like David, and he will be missed by his many friends, but we are especially thinking about Anna and Craig, grandchildren Kaitlin, Emily and Benjamin and the rest of his family at this sad time.

Methodist Church

**Sunday 3rd May : 2.30pm : Songs of Praise
Come along and sing all of your favourite hymns
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 16th May: WI Plant and Cake Stall 9.30am - 12 noon

**The church email address for enquiries is:
Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com**

For more information or bookings
please contact Elaine Thornton on 07778 284 749




WE REMEMBER
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of
DAVID CURTIS
28.3.1948 - 11.4.2026
and
DENNIS CLARKE
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Girlguiding



Firstly, thank you very much to everyone that came along to our Sip and Paint evening. We really enjoyed the evening, you all coped well with more drawing and all the spring flower bouquet paintings looked brilliant. For this and future events we have joined with Manea Guides to help raise funds for our young members to attend regional Girlguiding events. This will be Hautbois Fest 2026, Big Gig 2026 and CAMJAM 2027. Thank you to the Doddington Pavilion and Recreation Field for allowing us to use your facilities each time! Our next event is Friday 12th June, please see poster for more details.



Just before Easter our Rainbows and Brownies visited Ransonmoor Farm Lambing. Girls learnt about the sheep, sat on the tractors, fed lots of the lambs and met some goats and chicks. Thank you to Camilla for hosting us, our girls had a brilliant time.

At our meetings this term, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all taking part in Girlguiding Anglia's Civil Engineering challenge. Challenges include making a bridge using the materials given, to span a set distance (500mm) and carry a specified load. Scenarios will be set, one being the teams must build a shelter. Materials are scarce and expensive; they must try to build their shelter as cheaply as possible, using the materials available to them. Of course, it will need to be checked it is water-proof!

The poster is for a "Sip & Paint Evening" event. At the top, there are several small icons: a girl's head, a crescent moon, a trefoil, a girl's head, a crescent moon, and a girl's head. In the center, the text reads "Sip & Paint Evening" in a mix of fonts, with "Evening" in a large, cursive script. Below this, it says "Come and have a Giraffe painting your own!". The location is listed as "@ The Pavilion, Benwick Rd, Doddington". A list of details includes: "Guided painting session", "No experience necessary", "Painting materials supplied", and "Please bring your own drinks Snacks provided". The cost is "£15.00". A large black circle on the right contains the date and time: "Friday 12th June 7.00pm". A paintbrush icon is positioned near the cost and the date circle.

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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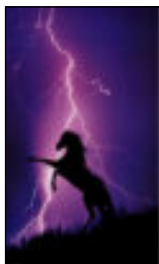
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Mirror Wills – Simple, Popular, and Sometimes Very Dangerous

Mirror Wills are one of the most common types of Wills used by married couples. They are simple, easy to understand, and in many situations they work perfectly well. But in some circumstances, mirror Wills can lead to very serious unintended consequences, including children being disinherited entirely. That is why it is important to understand not just how mirror Wills work, but also where the risks lay.



What are mirror Wills?

Mirror Wills are usually made by couples and are almost identical to each other. Typically they say something like:

- Everything passes to the surviving spouse
- When the second person dies, everything passes to the children

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,

Colin Barrett - Peritum Wills



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Planning for **Doddington Carnival Saturday 4th July 2026** is continuing at a great pace, and we have plenty of exciting updates to share.

Firstly, a huge thank you to **The Three Tuns** for continuing to support the Carnival through their raffle fundraising. Their recent raffle raised an **incredible £203** for the Carnival. We're very grateful for their continued support and generosity in helping us fund the event.

We're also preparing our **Summer Raffle Barrow**, which will once again be packed with a fantastic selection of goodies. Keep an eye out for tickets in The Three Tuns in the coming weeks.

Doddington Carnival Sponsorship Packages

Local businesses can now get involved too, as we've launched our new Carnival Sponsorship Packages. Businesses can support the Carnival through **Gold, Silver or Bronze** sponsorship, along with banner sponsorship around the field on Carnival Day. There's also the opportunity to sponsor an individual race during the Children's Sports Afternoon. Full details are available on our website for anyone interested in supporting the event.



Scarecrow Competition

The Scarecrow Competition will soon be returning to the village, and we would love to see as many entries as possible again this year. If you are planning to take part, now is the time to start thinking about your ideas, get registered, and start building! To help people get started, we've also published a helpful "How to build a Scarecrow" guide on our website.



Carnival Parade

Preparations are also underway for the **Carnival Parade**. We are inviting groups, organisations and families to enter floats and be part of the procession through the village. Floats don't have to be large – smaller family floats are very welcome too. A guide on how to create and enter a float will be available soon. We would also love to hear from anyone who owns an interesting or special vehicle that might like to take part in the parade. If you have a classic, sports or



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show car – perhaps a Ferrari, Porsche or something equally eye-catching – please do get in touch.

The **Fancy Dress Competition** will also return this year, so it's never too early to start thinking about costumes and creative ideas. We're delighted to announce that this year's judge will be none other than Santa Claus himself!

Finally, if you'd like to stay up to date with all the latest Carnival news and join in discussions with the team and other supporters, we'd encourage you to **join our Discord server**. It's a great place to hear updates, share ideas and get involved with planning the Carnival:

discord.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk

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

www.doddingtoncarnival.co.uk

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Women's Institute

Members were welcomed to the April Meeting by Sally Shortland.

Congratulations were given to Gabi Leeson who had come third in a recent tenpin bowling event at Guyhirn. There was still time to enter the Federation Summer Show. The Federation had sent Membership Registration Forms for all members to complete. The Plant and Cake Sale will be on Saturday 16th May from 9.30 - 12noon. Contributions of plants and cakes and volunteers would be appreciated. Plants and cakes can be dropped off at Gemma Watts' house the day before. The stall for the Christmas Lights event has been booked for Saturday 21st November.



This month's speaker was Lorraine and Kevin Hand and their topic was Charles Dickens. Lorraine entered the room dressed as Miss Havisham from "Great Expectations". She was dressed in an old faded wedding dress and veil which was what she had been wearing when she was jilted on her wedding day. From that day forward she was determined "to ruin all men". She then told a brief life story of Charles Dickens.

This was followed by Kevin and he was dressed as the Master Chimney Sweep who had been in "Oliver Twist". He told of how young boys were used to climb chimneys to sweep away the soot. This was a very dangerous job as chimneys were only 9 square inches, many boys got stuck and had to be rescued by removing some bricks in the chimney. A true story was told of George Brewster, a young chimney sweep, who got stuck in a chimney at Fulborne Hospital, Cambridge and could not be rescued. There is a blue plaque on the Hospital wall to remember him.



Lorraine then returned dressed as "Nancy" from "Oliver Twist" and they finished with everyone joining in singing "Um Pa Pa". Elaine thanked them for such an enjoyable evening.

Diana Philpot and Gabi Leeson served refreshments. The competition for a decorated hat was won by Ann Bosworth and Mavis Gamsby with 20 points each. A raffle also took place.

Next month will have Mia Hanson talking about the Bayeux Tapestry and the competition will be a piece of textile art. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.

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

Horticultural Society Village Show – Saturday 25th July 2026



The committee members are working hard making plans for the annual village show to be held on Saturday 25th July at The Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Benwick Road, Doddington.

We are hoping for a bumper event with lots of entries in all the revised 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 special section for children's entries. We have lots of trophies to win and prize money on offer.

The schedule of classes and programme of events are now available around the village and on the Doddington Diary website:

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

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

Outside the marquee we will have local crafts, stalls, a dog show and activities. There will be refreshments – including teas and cakes in the Pavilion, street food and burgers. We open to the public at 12.30 and the marquee will open for viewing from 1pm.

Before the show closes there will be a “Buy A Hamper” event when we sell off fruit, vegetables, cakes and produce all kindly donated by exhibitors.

In the evening the marquee will host a Bingo Night for all the family with great prizes – eyes down at 7.30pm. You can bring snacks or a picnic supper and drinks - or purchase burgers and chips from Finch's the caterer.



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**To Become a Friend Of The Show Please
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Email -
doddingtongsummershow@gmail.com**

We have our annual Summer Show Grand Draw with First prize £100, Second prize £50 and Third prize £25 plus other prizes (tickets are on sale now) and 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".

If you can spare a couple of hours to help, let us know – or just turn up on the Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

More information from: 07757 730425 and 07815 462796

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Croquet

Summer is nearly here and the croquet season is just around the corner. The season opener is planned for Thursday 7th May at 4pm, when we hope to see many of our regulars back again and hopefully some new players.



Anyone interested in joining us should either contact us or turn up at the Recreation Field on Thursday and we will give you a warm welcome and an introduction to the game. No equipment is needed just a pair of flat soled shoes. The game can be played by anyone of any age or ability as we are a friendly non competitive group.

The lawn has not wintered well and needs much work doing before we start but thankfully the Recreation Committee have the necessary equipment to make the task easier.

Anybody who would like to know more can contact us on
croquet@fieldsendwater.co.uk
 or telephone Duncan on 07932122235 or Vicky on 07769652449.

Wimblington Bowls Club : Open Day

You are invited to join us for our Open Day on Saturday 9th May at The Pavilion, Church Street, Wimblington (opposite the school).



Refreshments will be served from 10.00 to 15.00, you will be able to view our facilities and have a go at bowls (weather permitting). Should you wish to have a go at bowling then you must wear flat soled shoes on the green. In the event of rain on the day, bowling itself will not take place but we would still like you to visit!

We are a small, friendly club with no restrictions on membership except that if you are under 18 years old, you will need to be accompanied by an adult (for Safeguarding purposes). If travelling by car, you can park in the car park providing there has not been too much rain as it is a grassed area and, in which case, you will need to park in the road outside.

We look forward to seeing you and should you require further information then please contact Bill Harrison on 07909 928476 or Ron Green on 01354 740263.

Doddington Recreation Committee

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Easter Egg Hunt. The weather held for us, and it was a very busy and enjoyable morning. We really appreciate all the support from the community, which helps us continue to maintain and improve the Recreation Ground and Pavilion.



Doddington Recreation Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 14th May
7.30pm

Doddington Pavilion, Benwick Road

Everyone Welcome — Have Your Say!

Help shape the future of the Recreation Ground and Pavilion -Join us to find out more and share your ideas.

For enquiries, please contact us on

07541 277119

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Benwick Road. Everyone is very welcome to attend. If you would like to have a say in what happens at the Recreation Ground in the future or are interested in getting involved, please do come along and see what we do.



Our next Prize Bingo Night will be held on Thursday 21st May. Doors open at 7.00pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. Join us for a friendly evening with great prizes and good company.

The Pavilion is available to hire and is an ideal venue for summer birthday parties, with direct access to the field and plenty of space for bouncy castles and games. Please contact us for more information or to check availability.

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

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

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

Doddington Diary Annual Report

The Diary has had another successful year, with the support of the local community, clubs and organisations and of course our advertisers. We remain financially stable and this means that we can print more stories and photographs for your information and interest. It is nice to have a physical copy of the Diary, to sit and enjoy with a cup of coffee, but don't forget our website where you can find all of the past issues of the Diary and a What's On page where we share posters of your events. The History page continues to grow with pictures and stories of times gone by. Details of how to advertise with us and our prices (which have remained the same for another year) can be found on the website along with a "contact us" page, just visit www.doddingtondiary.co.uk

We currently print 1,050 Diaries every month and these are delivered FREE to every house in the village, with a few for the shops, Doddington Court and Askham House. The Diary is also emailed around the world to over 330 people every month, which helps previous residents to stay in touch with village life.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to the success of OUR village magazine. As always, a special thanks goes to all of the volunteers involved with the delivery of the Diaries every month.

Statement for Year End 30th September 2025

	2024	2025
Income - advertising	5,093	6,743
Income - fundraising/donations	10	-
Total Income	5,103	6,743
Expenditure - printing	6,964	7,642
Expenditure—software, etc	224	220
Total Expenditure	<u>7,188</u>	<u>7,862</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	(2,085)	(1,119)

*For the final time, thank you to Kelly and the team at **BBK PARTNERSHIP** for auditing our accounts. We will be looking for someone new to do this job for us next year!*

Doddington and Wimblington Speedwatch

At last, Spring has Sprung and the weather is getting slightly better. During the winter the team were hibernating, but you should now see us out and about in the village.

We have a new piece of equipment, many thanks to Wimblington and Stonea Parish Council. It is a Barrington Handheld Radar. This is a small handheld device, about the size of a mobile phone, we hold this pointing towards the oncoming traffic, and it captures the speed. It DOES NOT record any data such as Vehicle Registration, time, etc. and DOES NOT take photographs. The only information recorded on the device is the speed of the last 10 vehicles.

Sometimes we will also have the freestanding Motor Vehicle Radar System (MVRS) with us just to alert the drivers of their current speed. However, there will be occasions when we will not have this with us, especially when windy. We still display our warning sign indicating there is a Community Speedwatch session on going.

Any drivers found to be exceeding the speed limit during one of our sessions will receive a letter from Cambs Police advising them of the speed limit on the stretch of road, making them aware of the dangers of speeding. Should a vehicle registration be identified exceeding the speed limit by our equipment for a third time, the registered owner will receive a visit from the Cambs Police. Drivers cannot be fined when identified by our equipment. However, if trends show a particular issue at a location the police will run a session with their own equipment and issue fines.

We really need more volunteers to enable us to do more sessions, raising awareness and slowing down the traffic through the village. Currently we have NO volunteers from Doddington, so we have not been out and about there for a while. If you are reading this and live in Doddington and would like to volunteer, please contact me. If you think you would like to help your community, please get in touch, you can call or message Michele on 07770937127.



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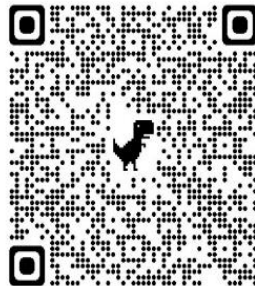
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01223 706100



I am looking for some Wheat please !!

I first made corn dollies, many years ago as a child in Wimblington. I have recently taken up the craft again, only to find that not only is there a lack of skills out there, but also nowhere locally to purchase the wheat! I am currently purchasing wheat from Staffordshire, which feels totally wrong to me, as we live in a great wheat growing area!

Ideally I need an old variety called **Maris Widgeon** which is long stemmed, hollow and a robust winter wheat. This variety is grown for thatching, due to its strength and long stem. Do you, or do you know anyone who grows this variety locally please - I would love to contact them !

Corn Dolly making is a dying craft, it is in the "red" category on the Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts List which means it will soon be gone if we don't keep it alive. I am very happy to pass on my skills but need the straw to do it!

If you are able to help, please contact me on 0754 999 1740 or at sarahallmarch@gmail.com



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Wednesday	8.30am-4pm	Sunday	CLOSED
Thursday	8.30am-4pm	Bank Hols	10am-4pm



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1st Doddington Scout Group



Our sections had a great two weeks before the Easter break. Our Squirrels were planting sunflower seeds and decorating envelopes to pop some seeds in which they then donated to members of the community and our Beavers had a great time in Pocket Park doing a treasure hunt to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

The Cubs have learnt and practised emergency aid, including DR ABC, the recovery position, CPR, bleeding, burns, applying bandages and how to comfort and reassure their patient, which is a skill in itself, whereas the Scouts were finding out what it takes to become an entertainer and be able to put on a performance.

The summer term has lots in store including, a water activity day for the Scouts where they can try paddle boarding, sailing, windsurfing or kayaking, camps for all sections, hikes, canoeing and a visit to a fire station.

Preparation and fundraising for our international camp in Holland in August have been continuing. Whittlesey Scout Group, who are joining us on our adventure, hosted a night of bingo, a fab night was had by all with many going home laden with Easter eggs after having won line, house or raffle prizes, with just over £650 being raised.

Our practise camp took place in the middle of April. During this camp, the entire group undertook an 800 mile walk challenge, why 800? Well, that is how far it is from Doddington to our campsite in Holland and back. They did amazingly and completed 965 miles in total, the resilience and teamwork they demonstrated was great to see. Thank you so much to everyone who donated and supported us, it was a brilliant motivation to them all and we are extremely grateful. There's still time to sponsor them though if you can spare a few pennies.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/1st-doddington-scout-group>

Upcoming

Our Race Night is back on Saturday 16th May 2026 at Doddington Village Hall. Tickets are £7.50 including a Sausage & Mash Supper and a £1 bet. Doors open at 5pm with the first race at 6pm. Click the following link to book your tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GHHQ> The link to book your tickets can also be found on the Diary website - doddingtondiary.co.uk/whats-on

During the evening we will be drawing our raffle, **first prize being a pair of return tickets on the Eurostar from London to Paris, Lille or Brussels.** If you'd like to get involved by either donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a race we'd love to hear from you.

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1st Doddington Scout Group | Book tickets via www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk | Charity Number 1204134

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 info:

Alys.Turner@doddingtonscouts.org.uk or 07900 584182



Seeking adult volunteers to join our team

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Scouts has lots 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 - 18 can join.

Or, to find out more about getting involved as an adult volunteer, supporting a whole range of tasks to suit your skills & interests.

1st Doddington Scout Group

www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk

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100th Club

It was lovely sunny afternoon for our April meeting, when lots of members enjoyed an interesting and entertaining talk on the RNLI, given by Katie Hunt. She explained that the first life boat was launched in 1824 and over a hundred years later Great Yarmouth will be receiving a new boat later this year. She told stories of the millions of lives that have been saved over that time with some amazing individual rescues. They are totally self funding and rely on the generosity of the public.

Katie was followed by our AGM, Anne Guiver was elected as Chair with Jane Archer as the vice Chair, Elaine Lewis is the secretary and Heather Kilby is the treasurer other members of the committee are June Hirst, Jenny Holding and Lyn Frankland.

Next month's meeting will be a talk on the work of the air ambulance, MAGPAS. The club is open to everyone, there is no age limit! We meet every third Thursday, at the Pavilion, Benwick Road from 2-4pm. Membership is £15 per year. See you there!



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



Embrace Care, Community and Fun at Askham!

Askham is a group of 4 bustling nursing and rehab homes in the village of Doddington, offering palliative dementia and rehabilitation nursing care.

Askham boasts a staffed café area every day of the week, in stunning grounds which is open to the public and their muddy pawed friends.



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Christmas Lights



Firstly, the members of Christmas Lights Committee would like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of David Curtis, a founder member of this Committee. David was a great help in the transition period from the old to the new committees in 2023, for which we are extremely grateful.

At our recent AGM, there were no changes to the positions of the existing committee who are: Chair: Chris Craven; Vice Chair: Simon Kingham; Secretary/Treasurer: Joy Healey with Rebecca Moye, Rob Elmore, Ron Green, Julie Jupe, Dave Crancher, Mick Healey, Lee Richardson, Marie Chambers, Sarah King and Beckie Hendle

We are really excited about our Fen Spirits Taster Evening on Friday 1st May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you are reading this before that date, there may still be a chance to purchase your tickets so please contact us without delay. It should be a fun evening.

The 10 week Summer Draw tickets are now on sale in the One Stop shop and from any Committee members. Tickets are £5 each and they will also be on sale at all of the events we are attending from now on. Don't forget that you will have 9 chances to win one of the two weekly prizes of £15 starting from Friday 31st July and a further chance to win £100, £50 or £25 on Friday 2nd October.


Get your address added to our maps for the annual **VILLAGE YARD SALE** on Sunday 7th June for the small charge of £5. This money goes to the Christmas Lights to help maintain and renew the lights each year. Earn yourselves some money from the comfort of your front garden by selling your pre-loved items. The deadline for being included on the maps will be Wednesday 3rd June at 5pm.

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:

Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights

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Doddington 100 Years Ago

Last month, we reported on the time the BBC came to Doddington to broadcast a 15-minute excerpt of Handel's Messiah as advertised in the Radio Times.

100 years on and BBC Radio Cambridgeshire sent reporter Kerry Devine to interview David

Edwards. David spoke about his family connection to the original event, but it was only when he was preparing his column for the Diary, that he found the original article in the Cambs Times. He shared pictures and information about the event in 1926. He also explained that some years later in 1938, the Rev Ridge put an advertisement in the Times newspaper appealing for a new church organ, he got one and it is still used in the church today.



They also spoke at length to Canon Mark Collinson, and he explained that the Hallelujah Chorus was all about the hope that comes at Easter with the resurrection of Jesus, and that this is just as relevant today as it was in 1926.

Once it had been decided that it would be nice to mark this historic event, it was mentioned to a few members of the congregation known for their singing abilities, and the idea was hatched.



Alison, the resident organist suggested they sang to a recorded backing track, and it all worked very well. Alison Bird, Rosie Warburton, Elizabeth Dunkley, Andrew Weedon (his grandfather had sung in the original choir in 1926), Susan Harlock and Sarah Edwards were the singers - listen on doddingtondiary.co.uk/whats-on

The event made the 10 o'clock news on Easter Sunday, the BBC website (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgj0g6z1xvo>) and on Easter Monday, the interviews were played during the morning show. Well done to everyone involved.

Doddington 80 Years Ago : May 1946

A Parish meeting was held to decide how to celebrate on June 8th, the official Victory Day. It was agreed that a tea would be provided for the children and sports for all with costs met by public subscription. A committee was formed to organize the events. 300 children, aged up to 16 years, were to be catered for in the British Legion Hall and the field next to the Hermitage was offered for the sports.

Street name plates had now been erected and the houses were soon to be numbered. Bus stop signs had also been put up.

Doddington United retained the Doddington and District Nursing Cup with a 3-0 win verses Parson Drove. The team was: J Sutherell, B Scotney, J Credland, R Clarke, R Pope, W Atkins, W Fisher, TW Dack, S Chapman, A Osman and A Upex. The goals were scored by Fisher (2) and Upex.

Doddington finished second to March Rovers in the Isle of Ely League, having played 16, won 11, drawn 1, lost 4, goals for 41, against 31.

Cambridgeshire County Council proposed merging with the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, a scheme that would not come to fruition for nearly 30 years.

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Doddington 50 Years Ago : May 1976

In the local elections, there were none at Doddington! Mr Richard Dunham was returned unopposed for the Doddington and Benwick seat on Fenland District Council and only eight candidates stood for the nine Parish Council seats- George Acton, Doris Driver, Percy Driver, Richard Dunham, Arthur Maxim, Heinz Miller, Frank Payne and Fred Southon.

Percy Driver was elected chairman of the Parish Council with George Acton as vice-chairman.

At the AGM of the 100th Club Mr Southon was re-elected chairman, Mr S Payne treasurer and Mrs Littlejohn, secretary. It was agreed to have trips to Clacton, Great Yarmouth and Skegness during the summer.

David and Thirsa Titterington gave up the High street shop (now One-Stop) after three years. Eileen Constable took over Marie's Hairdressers, 59 New Street.

Doddington Reserves retained the Heading Cup by beating Wimblington Reserves 2-0, Richard Chapman and Ron Bays scoring the goals.

To be continued....David Edwards

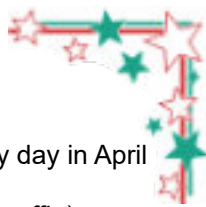
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THRIFT SHOP



The Doddington Thrift shop had another happy community day in April and raised a healthy total of £531, (of which £198 from cafe sales and £46 from the raffle).

The Thrift shop is a great place to pick up all sorts of bargains, recycling, up-cycling, books, plants, clothes, home-ware, great homemade bakes (just 80p each), fresh bacon rolls and there's always a happy, welcoming atmosphere.

The funds raised go to the upkeep of the Church Rooms and to support our chosen charity for 2026, MAGPAS. So if you're having a spring time de-cluttering, donate your items (sorry, no electrical items) and we'll do our best to find lovely new homes for them! See you next time!



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

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