

Doddington DIARY



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*Sunday 25th October
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Celebration of Music
with
Upwood Ukuleles

Sunday 3rd October 2022

7pm - 9pm

at St Mary's Church,

Upwood, Leicestershire

Admission is free of charge

Dear Residents of Doddington

Unfortunately we have come to that time of the year again when we have to remember to put our clocks back, marking the end of Summer time and the beginning of the dark evenings.

However, we will have lots to look forward to before then. The children have returned to their various activities and from reading the reports from the Scouts and Guides, they have certainly had lots of great summer adventures.

The Carnival Pub Quiz is another activity that is enjoyed by many - so many that it is now completely booked up, so if you haven't already booked your place, I am afraid you will have to wait until the next one!

However, if you are looking for a night out on Saturday 3rd October, we can recommend the Celebration of Music with the Upwood Ukuleles. They will be entertaining in the Church at the end of the second day of Celebrations of Harvest, Flowers and Community. At just £5 per ticket, which includes a glass of wine, it should be a good night. There will be lots to see in the Church over the whole of the weekend of 2nd to 4th October finishing with church services on the Sunday. It has proved to be a great community event so far, so it promises to be a wonderful weekend.

Looking towards Christmas, you should find a donation envelope with this month's diary. Like many organisations in our village, the Christmas Lights people work hard all year to bring us a great display of colour and light each year, your financial support would be very welcome.

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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Harvest after a Hard Summer



As we move into the gentler days of autumn, our village begins once again to turn its attention to harvest. This year, though, the season arrives carrying a certain weight. After weeks of intense heat and a summer marked by drought, many of us have felt the strain; gardeners watching parched soil, farmers making difficult decisions, and neighbours quietly adjusting their routines to cope with the weather's relentlessness. It has been, in many ways, a testing time.

And yet, harvest still comes. Perhaps that is its quiet miracle. Even in a year when the earth has been stressed and the rain has been scarce, we find ourselves gathering, noticing, and giving thanks for what has endured. Harvest teaches us that blessing is not always found in abundance; sometimes it is found in perseverance, in the resilience of creation, and in the faithfulness of God who sustains us through seasons both generous and lean.

In church, harvest is never simply about crops. It is about recognising that everything we have, our food, our work, our relationships, our community life, is ultimately a gift. This year, that truth feels sharper. We have seen how fragile our patterns can be, how dependent we are on rhythms beyond our control, and how deeply we rely on one another when circumstances become difficult. Gratitude, then, becomes not just an act of celebration but an act of humility.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to all in our village who have worked so hard to bring our harvest celebrations together. The growers who coaxed life from stubborn soil; the volunteers who arranged displays, baked, decorated, and prepared; the teams who kept community spaces welcoming; and those who simply offered encouragement when spirits were low. Your efforts are a testament to the character of this place; a community that does not give up easily, and that continues to give generously even when the season has been demanding.

A particular word of thanks is due to Sally, of the Doddington Diary, whose steady help throughout this season has been a real blessing. In a year when so much has felt demanding, her willingness to step in, offer support, and carry out countless quiet tasks has strengthened our Church Harvest celebrations in Doddington.

St Mary's Church Services



Sunday 4th October

- 9.30 am Breakfast Church, Wimblington
10.30 am Harvest Service, Doddington
10.30 am Harvest Holy Communion, Christchurch
4.00 pm Songs of Praise, Doddington



Sunday 11th October

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

Tuesday 13th October

- 1.30 pm Cafe Church, Church Rooms, Doddington**

Sunday 18th October

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

Sunday 25th October

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

Canon Mark Collinson,
Rector of St Mary's and the Six Fen Churches
Email mark@sixfenchurches.org or text 07874847157.

As we gather to worship God and give thanks for the harvest, may we do so with a deep awareness of God's hand at work: in the beauty that remains, in the strength that carried us through the heat, and in the shared hope that binds us together. May our thanksgiving be sincere, and may it remind us that even in challenging seasons, grace still grows.

With every blessing,

Revd. Sean D. Barrington, Curate in the Six Fen Benefice
Email: sean@sixfenchurches.org or text 07359 273936



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Methodist Church

Monday: No events

Tuesday: Under 5s: 10 - 11.30am

Wednesday: Auction: 6 - 8.00pm

Thursday: No events

Friday: Under 5s: 10 - 11.30am

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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Anna Chaplaincy

Doddington now has an Anna Chaplain. Jenny Holding has been commissioned by St Mary's Church to support older residents.



Her role is about being a champion for older people who might be feeling isolated, lonely, or struggling with big life changes like retirement or losing a loved one.

If you feel Jenny could help you or someone you know, please reach out to her on 01354 740894 or email contact@sixfenchurhes.org

Girlguiding



We welcomed lots of new Rainbows to the unit this September. We spent time getting to know one another through fun games before turning our attention to camping.

The girls thought about what they would need to pack for a camp, packed their bags and beds, and then set up their very own campsite. They even designed and decorated colourful flags to fly outside their tents.

We have also been learning some important cooking skills, including how to safely prepare food and chop vegetables. The girls put their new skills into practice by creating their own delicious pizzas.

Our Rainbows and Brownies recently enjoyed a truly magical Enchanted Fairy Sleepover. The girls adopted their very own fairies and created magical fairy-dust wish bottles and fairy wings. They also created some fantastic miniature fairy gardens.

The Brownies bravely faced the rain and spent the night sleeping in tents, while our Rainbows enjoyed an indoor camp. For some of the girls, it was their very first night away from home, so there were lots of proud smiles when they were awarded their first-night-away badge. For some of our Brownies, this marked their 5th Night away.

Brownies were very excited to return after the summer holidays; we played a few lively games, then in groups they practised some role-play acting to communicate information.

We have been busy making some decorations for our flower display for the harvest celebration and using our sewing skills to create some colourful mice – see if you can find one in the Church!

Brownies will soon start work on their Local History badge; they will be exploring the village to find Doddington's unique features and hopefully learn some interesting facts.

Our Guides returned after the summer with a fun hot chocolate evening, giving everyone the chance to catch up with friends while enjoying some fun games in the dark.

The following week, we swapped hot chocolate for litter-picking equipment and headed out into the village. The Guides worked hard to clear rubbish from the streets of Doddington, including the area around the skate park. They collected an impressive amount of litter and did a fantastic job of helping to make our village a cleaner and nicer place for everyone.

The Guides are currently working towards their Make Change badge. As part of this, they are taking on a rather chilly challenge, a cardboard box sleepover! The girls will spend a night sleeping outdoors in cardboard boxes during the October cold, while raising money for two great causes: The Ferry Project and our own Guide unit. For information about this challenge and how you can support them with a donation, please see page 11.

Rangers held their first meeting, discussing various ideas of what they would like to do. Their first idea was to hold their very own Bake- Off. Various dishes were dreamt up and the following week we were treated to pasta with a pink sauce, cookies with ice cream, pepperoni pizza and chocolate cupcakes. We were very lucky to have our very own Doddington Girlguiding Bake Off judges there to taste and voice their opinions on the dishes. Everyone enjoyed this and I am sure we will have another Bake-Off soon!

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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When Helping One Child Changes What Feels Fair

Would you give one of your children £50,000 towards a house deposit if they needed it?

For many parents, the answer is an immediate yes.

But years later, another question may arise. Should that £50,000 be taken into account when your estate is eventually divided between your children?

There is no single right answer, because families don't always need the same things at the same time.

This month, we look at the difference between treating children equally and treating them fairly, and why the intention behind financial help can sometimes matter just as much as the amount involved.

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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This October around 20 Guides will brave the October cold and spend the night outdoors, using cardboard boxes as their shelter. With warm sleeping bags, plenty of layers and a whole lot of team spirit, they'll experience just a tiny glimpse of how difficult it can be to face a cold night without a safe and secure home.



We're using this challenge to raise money to be split 50/50 between two projects.

1st Doddington Guides

This money will help us take more girls to CamJam 2027, giving them the opportunity to experience this fantastic Guiding event, learn new skills, make memories and take part in activities that they might otherwise not be able to afford.

The Ferry Project

The other half will go towards a local charity, The Ferry Project. They support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Fenland.

The Ferry Project provides practical support, accommodation and opportunities to help people move towards a safer, more secure future.

For our Guides, this is more than just an unusual sleepover. It's an opportunity to think about what it means to have a warm, safe place to sleep, while doing something positive for people in our local community.

Please sponsor our brave Guides as they swap their bedrooms for cardboard boxes for one night and sleep out to help others.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, will help us make a difference.

Thank you



Doddington Horticultural Society

The nights are drawing in, and the evenings are getting longer. It's time to plant the Spring bulbs, evergreens and Winter bedding plants to see us through the next few months.



It's also time to give our garden tools a good clean, tidy the shed, sweep paths and patios, repair fences, clean gutters, sweep leaves, aerate the lawn, prune roses and provide for wildlife.

The long evenings also give us chance to revisit our handicrafts. A great opportunity to think about exhibits in the Arts and Crafts section at the Village Show next year!

The committee have started to review the 2026 show, and plans are already underway for next year, **Saturday 31st July 2027**. If you won a trophy at this year's show, you should have been contacted to advise the engraving has now been done, and it is ready to collect.



Thank you to everyone who contacted us after the Diary report last month. We do still need more helpers on the Friday and Saturday to get things set up and taken down, especially in the marquee. If you think you can spare a few hours and you want the Village Show to continue, please get in touch.

As this report goes to print, we are looking forward to the **Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community** on the first weekend in October in St, Mary's Church. The Horticultural Society will be contributing with a display to celebrate our forthcoming 80th show.

We also have our Horticultural Society Tombola at the **Doddington Christmas Lights** event on **Saturday 21st November** and 4th Doddington **Scone Off** is being discussed. Details to follow. Both will help to raise funds for the Summer Show.

If you would be interested in joining the committee or volunteering at one of our forthcoming events, you will be very welcome.

More information on our Facebook page (Doddington Village Summer Show) from (Hilton) 07757 730425 or (Ruth) 07815 462796 or email doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com



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Sunday	CLOSED
Bank Hols	10am-4pm



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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

Registered Charity Number: 5204134

Corn Dollies

A group of ladies enjoyed a couple of hours at the Community Cafe, when Sarah Hall demonstrated how to make a Gentleman's Favour.



Long ago people believed a harvest spirit lived in the fields and by cutting the very last grain meant the spirit lost its home. Farm workers fashioned the final sheaf into a figure (the corn dolly) so the spirit could stay warm indoors all winter, then in the spring, they were ploughed back into the earth to bless and grow the next year's crops.

Sarah plans to be at the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community on the Saturday afternoon - so if you would like to see how it is done, pop along to take a look.

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MARCH AND DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY

PRESENTS OCTOBER'S TALK

“Doddington Workhouse”

BY

David Edwards



Join us with our very own Archivist, David Edwards,
to find out about the history of Doddington Workhouse.

Friday 9th October, 7.30pm.

At St Peter's Church Hall, St Peter's Church, High Street
March. PE15 9JJ (Opposite March Museum)

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Admission Non-Members £5.00 Members £4.00
Refreshments included

Women's Institute



Members plus one visitor were welcomed to the meeting.

A meeting had been held on 18th August to discuss next year's programme and a provisional draft has been made. Final arrangements were made for the Ladybird Boat Trip. Members were reminded that the Centennial Competition for a rag doll has to be brought to the October meeting for judging. An update was given of the Harvest Festival which takes place the first weekend of October. The W.I. are doing a window and pew display and also helping with lunches on the Saturday.

Our speaker was David Edwards who gave a talk about The Doddington Workhouse which stood on the site of the present Doddington Hospital. David explained that the poor and needy in the past had been looked after by the Monasteries but this came to an end with Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. It was then decided that each Parish would look after their poor. This ended with the 1834 Poor Law.

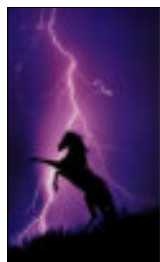
The Parishes of March, Chatteris and Doddington were amalgamated and decided to build a Workhouse in Doddington which began in 1836 and was completed by 1838. It was run by a Master and Matron with men and women kept separately. Only very young children stayed with their mothers, other children were also separated with boys and girls having their own schools.

Life in the Workhouse was very grim with a very poor diet but on special occasions, e.g. Christmas, extra food and ale was given. The Workhouse closed after old people were paid a pension and could stay in their own homes and children could go to the village school. The Workhouse became a hospital and the old Workhouse was demolished in 2003. It stood where the car park is at the rear of Doddington Court. David was thanked by Elaine Stratford.

The competition was for a plate of 4 Fairy Cakes and both Mavis Gamsby and Gill Jolley were awarded 20 points.

Refreshments were served by the Committee. After the raffle took place information was given about the next meeting, to be held on Thursday 1st October. Ann Purt will show how to make Autumnal flower arrangements. The competition will be for an arrangement using pine cones. Visitors are welcome.

Please contact Elaine Stratford secretary for more information
(tel. 462057) or elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk



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Croquet

I have just returned from an enjoyable game of croquet, featuring some interesting challenges and highly accurate shots. Vicky and I played two games, both decided at the final hoop. We enjoy friendly, competitive play while remaining friends afterwards. None of us is interested in formal competitions or matches against other clubs.



The lawn is struggling to recover and has become very uneven with new grass emerging. We hope time will heal.

We always welcome anyone who would like to join us on a Thursday afternoon. From 1st October we shall be starting at 3pm as the nights draw in and our last game will be on 29th October weather permitting.

For further information please email Croquet@fieldsendwater.co.uk

An advertisement for DRP Security Services. It features a man in a dark suit and tie, holding a large, glowing blue padlock. The background is dark with a circular pattern and some digital lines. The text 'Prevention. Protection. Safety.' is written in large, bold, white letters on the left side. At the bottom, there is a logo for DRP Security Services and contact information.

**Prevention.
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DRP Security Services | 07736 872159 | DRP5ecServ@hotmail.com | Facebook: @DRPSS

Doddington Recreation Committee

Our next Prize Bingo will be held on Thursday 15th October. Doors open at 7.00pm for eyes down at 7.30pm. Come along for a fun and friendly evening with great prizes and good company. New faces are always welcome.



You can also support the Recreation Committee through One Lottery. Tickets cost just £1 per week, with 50% of ticket sales coming back to the Recreation Committee to help with the upkeep and improvement of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. It's an easy way to support your local community facility, with the added chance of winning a cash prize each week. To find out more and register, visit www.onelottery.co.uk and search for Doddington Recreation Committee.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our small and friendly committee. There are lots of different ways to help, including looking after the grounds, helping with the administration of the Pavilion, assisting at fundraising events or sharing ideas for future activities and fundraising. Even giving a little time can make a real difference, and volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make friends.

If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.

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

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

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



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1st Doddington Scout Group



On 20th August 2026 the advance party of leaders set off on their long drive to their home for the following 11 days in Buitenzorg, Holland. Having basked in sunshine in England over the previous weeks, they arrived to torrential rain, not the best weather to put tents and marquees up in!

The following morning twelve of our oldest Explorer and Network members flew out from Luton, after a bit of a delay, and were met at Amsterdam by members of the advance party. After a train ride and walk they arrived on site and set up their camping area.

Very early the following day the main party left Doddington by coach and made their way to Dover for their ferry crossing before continuing their journey to begin a week of activities, time with friends and memory making.

The first full day on site for the main party was a day to ease them in and let them explore their surroundings. They had the opportunity to make a woggle from leather, a survival bracelet, visit the Netherlands National Scout Museum and have a go at archery.

A visit to Rotterdam was their first venture off-site. A boat trip, a chance to go round the Maritime Museum and then free time to explore Rotterdam in their groups.

During the rest of the week they went to Amsterdam, Anne Frank's house was a favourite for some, whereas the pancake house topped other people's list. Theme Park Day was also a winner with everyone, even our leaders enjoyed the thrills of the rides. An afternoon at the local outdoor swimming pool was also a hit.

Tuesday was the day that everyone put on their uniforms as during the day they took part in an act of remembrance. They started off at the Airbourne Museum where they learned about the Battle of Arnhem, they walked the Northern and Southern Perimeter where troops had set



up a defensive line against the Germans as part of Operation Market Garden. On the walk they were able to see images at key points of what it would have been like for the troops in 1944. Before moving on to the cemetery for the act of remembrance,

they visited John Frost Bridge. For those of you who have watched 'A Bridge too Far', this is the bridge. Following a moving ceremony at the cemetery,



watched by several other visitors, they returned to camp. As the day was similar to one in Belgium, it proved to be thought provoking and more emotional than many anticipated.

Our older members joined the main party for the day at Arnhem, for the Theme Park and some other trips but had planned other activities and places to go to. They enjoyed time at a trampoline park, Rotterdam zoo, glow golf, clog painting, a Stroop waffle workshop, a visit to the Upside Down Museum, Ripleys and a Music museum along with exploring local towns.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank two groups of people, the leaders for giving up their time to provide this fantastic opportunity and the parents for entrusting their children to us for just over a week. Lasting memories have been made!



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 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 on
Jonathan.harwood@doddingtonscouts.org.uk

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Christmas Lights



This year, we commence building our displays on the weekend of 24th and 25th October. If you can provide any support, particularly on the Saturday, it would be very much appreciated. There are lots of ways you can help, from attaching silhouettes to poles, to lifting the poles into place, or securing the poles with wedges or traffic control, so please let us know if you are available. We will be meeting at 9am at Elmore's yard in the High Street on both days.



Before this though, we will be taking part in the village's Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community, so please come along to St Mary's church during the first weekend of October to see ours and all the other community displays in the church.

Included with this edition of the Diary, you should find a small envelope. If you feel you can donate, any amount, to help maintain the lights, we would be most grateful. The envelopes can be left at the One Stop, the Newsagents, Tessa's hairdressers or 37 Wood Street. If you are unable to get to any of these locations, please ring 07935282070 to arrange collection.

We have been busy throughout the summer, planning, testing and fixing the lights that will brighten our village throughout the festive season. You will have seen in last month's edition of the Doddington Diary and on Facebook that we will be paying a lasting tribute to David Curtis and previous members of the Christmas Lights committee. We have a new feature incorporating David's initials which will be placed as near as possible to his family home.

We are, once again, delighted to continue our Christmas Lights Sponsorship Initiative, which has been a huge success in recent years. For £25, any business or individual can sponsor one of our pole displays. Your support helps us maintain, repair and expand the lights that make Doddington feel so special throughout December.

Each sponsored pole will proudly carry a sign featuring your name, logo or message, so everyone can see who's helping keep the village shining bright. It's a simple, affordable way to be part of something that brings joy to hundreds of people every year.



A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community



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

The hard work is just about over so all there is left to do now is totally enjoy our weekend of Celebrations. With over 25 floral displays from all over the village plus music and entertainment, there is something for everyone. We do hope that you will come along and support everyone's efforts. There will be no charge to come into the Church, so you can come along as many times as you wish. There will also be plenty of tea and cake giving you an opportunity to sit, chat and enjoy the beauty of our magnificent Church - we look forward to seeing you.



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Whether you're a local business wanting to give something back to the community, a family who loves the lights or you want to dedicate a display in memory of a loved one, your sponsorship makes a real difference. Our larger displays are also available to sponsor for various prices. If you are interested in sponsorship or require further information, please contact us at:

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:

Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights

100 Years Ago : Who was born in 1926

13 January: Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear

10 February: Danny Blanchflower, footballer

19 March – Tony Collins, footballer

21 April: Queen Elizabeth II

8 May: David Attenborough, broadcaster and naturalist

1 June: Marilyn Monroe, actress

21 July: Bill Pertwee, actor

27 August: Pat Coombs, actress

7 September: Patrick Jenkin, Conservative politician

10 October: HERB BRADSHAW, Doddington legend!

6 November: Frank Carson, comedian

20 December: Geoffrey Howe, Conservative politician



What else was happening in 1926 ?

A. A. Milne wrote a book about his son Christopher Robin Milne's toys, and so the first Winnie-the-Pooh was published on 14 October 1926, selling 150,000 copies before the end of the year and still loved 100 years on!



UK General Strike, millions of workers walked out in May 1926 to support coal miners facing wage cuts and longer hours, bringing the country to a standstill before ending in November.

Invention of Television, Scottish inventor John Logie Baird gave the first public demonstration of a working mechanical television system in London on 26th January 1926.

Doddington Clock Tower was in the middle of the street (it wasn't moved until 1938! This picture was taken about 1906)



The Three Tuns can be seen in the background, it hasn't changed much, but The George underwent a makeover in the 1930s. There were eleven pubs in Doddington in 1926!

There were around 154 children at the Lionel Walden school up to the age of 13/14 and this included 11 children attending from the Workhouse.

Doddington 80 Years Ago : October 1946

Mrs Emma Wool retired as landlady of the White House public house in Benwick Road, which she had run with her late husband Arthur for 37 years. The new landlord was Walter Harding. [The White House stood on the site of 5 Benwick Road. The pub closed in 1954, the building was badly damaged by a fire in 1962 and then demolished].



The War Memorial Committee heard that there would be a delay to the placing of the War Memorial plaque inside the Church as there was insufficient time for the Bishops Advisory Board to approve the design before Remembrance Sunday. The churchyard memorial and Methodist chapel plaque would be unveiled as planned.

Mr Fred Wood announced that he was leaving the village. He was vice-chairman of the Parish Council and had managed the shop now known as the One-stop shop for about eight years. During the war he had been Doddington's own "Captain Mainwaring", commanding the Doddington Platoon of the Home Guard, with the rank of Major, for most of the war.

The Church had been decorated for the Harvest Festival with flowers, fruit and vegetables by the members of the Ladies Guild and the children's corner by Misses M Curtis, J Henson and J Palmer. Produce was given by Mr N Welcher, Mr HP Morton, Mr Price and others. The service was conducted by the rector, Rev R Ridge.

The Hermitage, Fountain Court and lodge were offered for sale by Knolles Ltd of London in liquidation.

Doddington 50 Years Ago : October 1976

A village meeting approved the Parish Council obtaining a £2,000 loan to renovate the recently purchased former British Legion Hall (now the Village Hall).

At the AGM of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion the following officers were elected: President, Mrs Harris; chairman, Mrs Everitt; vice-chairman, Mrs Mason; secretary, Mrs Ellington and treasurer, Mrs J Fisher.

To be continued....David Edwards

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2027 is coming...

Since moving to Doddington in 2020, I have been continuously impressed by the big skies. The absence of hills and tall buildings makes the sky all the more impressive. As a painter, I have been fascinated by the ever-changing skies, through winter and summer, rain and drought (this year).

Over the past year, I have created a series of twelve paintings representing the Fenland sky throughout the year and these are currently in the capable hands of David J. Richards Ltd (printers) being turned into calendars for 2027. These calendars will soon be for sale directly to you, at £10.00 each. Profits will be shared out between the Doddington Horticultural Society and the Doddington Christmas Lights.



Calendars can be purchased from Peter Leeson, DoddingtonArt@gmail.com, 07739 989 867, by scanning the attached QR code
Or by going to <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/TAS8L34WB9SGA>

A large advertisement for Washbrook Farm Motocross Track. The central text reads 'WASHBROOK Farm Motocross Track' in a bold, stylized font. Above this, there are logos for 'Talog', 'Putoline', 'Aral', 'Fenthal', and 'FMF'. Below the main title, it says 'ADULT & JUNIOR PRACTICE TRACKS & BEGINNERS OVAL'. Further down, it states 'OPEN SATURDAYS 11am - 4pm' and 'SHOP OPEN MON-SAT 8am - 7pm SUNDAYS - CALL'. To the right, there is a 'Silkolene' logo and the text 'GENUINE & AFTERMARKET PARTS'. At the bottom, it mentions 'ON SITE WORKSHOP & SERVICING FACILITIES', 'MAIL ORDER FACILITIES', and 'ALL MAJOR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED'. The address 'WASHBROOK FARM, BENWICK ROAD, DODDINGTON, CAMBS. PE15 0TY' and contact details 'TEL/FAX 01354 740442' and 'e-mail washbrookmx@btopenworld.com' are provided. The website 'www.washbrookfarmmx.co.uk' is also listed. Various other logos are present, including 'Ikon', 'Wolf', 'Scott', and 'ACE731D'.

Parish Council Report

Community Living Room

The Community Living Room continues to be well supported, with 104 attendees recorded during August. The group meets every Friday in the Church Rooms, and all are welcome.

Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up

The Nature Recovery initiative is progressing, with volunteers and local community groups being contacted. The Parish Council hopes to support and help develop projects that benefit wildlife and green spaces throughout the village.

Highways and Village Issues

The Council continues to raise local highways concerns, including potholes and overgrown hedges obscuring footpaths. County Council Highways have recently unveiled a £5 million 'winter readiness programme' which will also support patch repairs.

If you spot a Highways issue, please do report it using the Cambridgeshire County Council 'report a Highways fault' online system. The more faults are reported, our chances of getting a result increase.

Planning and Village Matters

It is good to see that the grass is growing again at last, and that green shoots are appearing. At the Abbey Recreation Ground, weekly inspections will take place to ensure that our field is in good condition over the autumn and winter period. The council is also considering options for overflow parking at the site.

Council Administration

The deadline for applications for the vacancy for a Parish Councillor (by co-option) has passed and we are delighted to report that we had many applications for the role. Interviews have taken place and we will announce the successful candidate in the November edition of the Diary. It is really heartening to note that so many people are interested in and willing to offer their time, to promote our village, and ensure that it remains the friendly, safe and community led place that we know.

The external audit has now closed with a clean sheet. Our Responsible Financial Officer, Roger Wilkin, who has stepped back from the Parish Clerk role, was thanked by the Chair for his many years of service, for his excellent administration of the Council and for the many hours that he put in over and above his contract. We are delighted that he will still be with us and will keep his finger on the financial pulse as our RFO. Our new Parish Clerk, Abbey Barnes will be responsible for the administrative side of the role.

Did you know the Parish Council has a Facebook page? If you didn't this QR code will take you straight to it!



The Parish Council's website can be viewed at www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk where you will find agendas for upcoming meetings, minutes from previous meetings and other useful information. There is also a contact page to the Clerk of the Parish Council (who works primarily on a Monday and Wednesday 09:00-15:00). 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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FREE digital workshops

Common Ground - Fenland Digital Storytelling Lab is looking for 16 adults to tell stories from their daily lives.



This project needs no previous creative or technical experience and is backed by The Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grants.

Participants will explore work, family, migration, identity and neighbourhood through four workshops, one-to-one support, writing, photography, film and digital storytelling.

The project runs from November 2026 to May 2027 and will end with a digital exhibition and public Fenland showcase. Participants decide whether their stories are published.

The project is aimed at people who do not see themselves as artists or would not normally apply for an arts programme!

If this is something you would like to try, you can apply through the project website at commongroundfenland.org

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Doddington

100th Club

Members and guests were welcomed to our monthly meeting, held on 17th September. Our speaker for the afternoon was Peter Tatam. He gave a very interesting and amusing talk on the History of the Fens and Fenmen. He spoke of Roman and Viking invasions, Oliver Cromwell and so much more. It was very worrying to hear how much of the Fens had been lost over the years.

The talk was followed by refreshments and a quiz. Names were taken for the planned trip to Stamford market on Friday 27th November, leaving The Three Tuns at 9am. The trip is open to members and non-members, for more information, please contact Heather.

We are pleased to be supporting the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community to be held in the Church at the beginning of October. Our display will be celebrating MAGPAS and we are looking forward to hearing the Upwood Ukuleles.

The next meeting will be held on 15th October when we will be having a Fish and Chip lunch. PLEASE NOTE the early start for this afternoon, please arrive early as lunch will be served at 1pm. Following the lunch, we will be entertained by a magician!

Future meetings: November we will welcome Chatteris Community Choir and December will be our Christmas lunch,

Everybody Welcome.



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



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THRIFT SHOP



Doddington's monthly Thrift shop is a great place to go to donate and buy all kinds of bargains for upcycling, recycling and giving pre-loved items a second life!

September's Thrift shop raised a great total of £513 (£190 from cafe sales). Funds raised go to the upkeep of the Church rooms and to MAGPAS, our chosen charity for 2026. Our thanks go to our customers, donators and volunteers who make this such a lovely village event each month.

Our next shop will be 1st of October 9am to 12 noon, with our Bargain Trolley Stroll 12 to 12.30, where you can fill a trolley for just £3!

If you have items to donate, please bring them along Wednesday 30th September 9am to 11am (sorry, no electricals). See you there!

Dates for 2026: 5/11, 3/12

We are open from 9am to 11am.

on the Wednesday before to accept donated items.

Jan Holdich on 07305 799 257 janholdich@gmail.com



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