



# Doddington

DIARY



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# Summer Fun!



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Dear Residents of Doddington

Ever since my children were at school, September has felt more like “new year” than January does. By the last few days of August, the annual trip to the seaside was over, evenings are getting shorter, the school uniforms purchased and then ... September arrives. The children are full of anticipation as the new term begins, but it was always more than school. For parents and children, there would also be new activities to join as we make plans for the winter evenings ahead. I wonder what new activities you will undertake this September, there are certainly lots to choose from in and around the village.

Talking of school days, we have taken a look back at how school days may (or may not) have changed over the years. We would be happy to receive your comments and if you know who the “blanks” are in our photographs, please do contact us.

September is also “Macmillan Cake” month, with lots of opportunity to bake and eat cake while raising money for this wonderful charity. We have reported two such events, they are not on the same day - so you can support both!

We have a bumper edition of the Diary this month with lots of new items as well as our usual reports, a full list of winners from the Village Show and the summer adventures from Scouts and Guides. There is also a Questionnaire for you to complete about what you LOVE or HATE about living in Doddington. We have put it in the centre of the Diary so that once it has been completed, you can remove it without any trouble and take it to one of the delivery points ... or you can download a copy from our website.

From Sally, the Editor

### **Doddington Diary Deadlines and Contact Details**

Doddington Diary website: [www.doddingtondiary.co.uk](http://www.doddingtondiary.co.uk)

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

Contact us by Email: [doddingtondiary@gmail.com](mailto:doddingtondiary@gmail.com)

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

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## A Message from the Rector

I hope you have been able to get away during the summer for a holiday. My wife, Sue, and I went back to one of our favourite places in the French Alps, together with our grown up children, Izzy and Sam. We stay in a little hut no bigger than a caravan which is completely off the grid. The water comes from the stream nearby.



The solar panels give us light in the evening. A log fire provides heat if it gets cold at night. Hot water and the cooker are powered by gas canisters. At nearly 6,000 feet above sea level we feel we can really get away from things. At night we sometimes lie in the garden looking up to the heavens and see the waxing and waning of the moon, satellites and stars, the lightning from a passing thunderstorm feels like God's paparazzi, and we even saw some amazingly long shooting stars.

Every morning on holiday I walk up the mountain to the local farmer, Marielle. She has four cows and a herd of goats and she provides a litre of fresh milk which is still warm from the cow when I pick it up. In August she and her husband cut and harvest the alpine meadows. This year I offered to help with the baling of the hay, stacking up the bales, ready to be taken down the mountain to the barn for the winter feed. Like farmers in the Fens, Marielle works every day of the week. I wonder when she ever gets a break.

Back in medieval England the ordinary person never dreamed of going away on holiday, but you might get to go on a Pilgrimage with others to a holy site. If you can't afford to go on pilgrimage, everyone could look forward to a 'Holy Day' at home. This is where we get 'holi-days' from. Holy Days were festivals in the annual cycle of the church. Big festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Whitsun (May Bank Holiday) still provide a day off in our times. But each village would also have a local Holy Day, dedicated to their local saint, and numerous other holy days as well. After the obligatory service in church, there would be a carnival atmosphere in the village, with a market fair and games, much like the Doddington Village Summer Show. Holy days connect us to something bigger and deeper, rooted in our place and drawing on our traditions.

Holidays are a time to interrupt the routine of work, to rest, to celebrate, to connect with friends and family, and also to take stock and reflect. Perhaps we are also looking to reconnect with ourselves and recover our balance in life. Sometimes our work and the busy-ness of life stops us from wondering how life could be better. As a Christian I believe God has a destiny for all of us, and he wants to help us reach our destiny, our fulfilment, and a better future.

If the summer has made you want to ask some questions about the meaning of life, and what your purpose is, come and join us for the first session of our new Alpha course on 21st September. Do contact me if you'd like further details. You can come to the first session without any obligation to come again. It's an opportunity to listen to others, and to share your views, and carve out a space of 'holy' time, so that holidays don't just have to be memories.

**Canon Mark Collinson** : email: [Mark.6fenchurches@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.6fenchurches@gmail.com) : Tel: 0787 4847 157

## St Mary's Church Services for SEPTEMBER



- Sunday 7th**      **Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion**  
                      *Manea 3.00pm Forest Church*  
                      *Christchurch 6.30pm Evening Prayer*
- Tuesday 9th**      **Doddington 1.30pm Café Church (Church Rooms)**
- Sunday 14th*      *Wimblington 10.30am Morning Prayer*  
                      *Manea 10.30am Holy Communion*  
                      *Benwick 3.00pm Holy Communion*
- Sunday 21st**      **Doddington 10.30am Morning Prayer**  
                      *Christchurch 10.30am Holy Communion*
- Sunday 28th*      *Wimblington 10.30am Holy Communion*  
                      *Manea 10.30am Morning Prayer*  
                      *Welney 3.00pm Holy Communion*



# Dying Matters

Following the success of our first Coffee Morning we are offering a further opportunity to talk about -

## LIFE - DEATH - FUNERALS - GRIEF

This is a chance to talk and share together as we think about our experiences and the reality of loss.

Please do come and join us for coffee and cake - there is no charge!

**St Peter's Church,  
Wimblington.**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
10.30am - 12noon**

For more information or to express your  
interest contact Sue Collinson  
Licensed Lay Minister on 07484242435  
or [suzanCollinson@gmail.com](mailto:suzanCollinson@gmail.com)





## Café Church



We are excited to announce a new initiative for Doddington.

We recognise that we live in busy times and it is not always possible to attend church on a Sunday morning, so we are going to offer an opportunity for informal chat and coffee together with a relaxed style of worship, through music, prayer and readings with a Christian message.

We will meet on the second Tuesday of each month and the format of our time together will evolve to meet the needs of those attending.

We look forward to meeting everyone, whether you regularly attend church or not and as we have no age restrictions we would be very happy to see young children attending as well!

For more information, please contact Jenny Holding  
on 01354 740894 or email [hldjen@outlook.com](mailto:hldjen@outlook.com)



St Mary's Church, Doddington  
warmly invites you to the launch of

## Café Church



**at** The Church Rooms, New Street, Doddington  
**on** Tuesday 9th September 2025  
**from** 1.30pm to 3.00pm  
(includes informal worship of about 30 minutes)

This is an opportunity to socialise, meet new friends and worship during the week, with free refreshments.

For more information  
contact Jenny Holding  
on 01354 740894 or  
[hldjen@outlook.com](mailto:hldjen@outlook.com)



## Methodist Church

**Sunday 14th September : 2.30pm : Rev Lorna Vincent**

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

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

**Wednesday:** Auction: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

**Thursday:** No events

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

If you are looking for a venue, especially for children's parties, our hall is available at very reasonable prices. We also have the option of the use of some great play equipment through the Under 5s. For more information please contact Elaine (details below).

**The church email address for enquiries is:**  
**[Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Doddingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com)**  
For more booking information please contact  
Elaine Thornton on 07778 284 749



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## Girlguiding



### NORJAM 2025

1st Doddington Guides had the opportunity of a lifetime at Norjam International Jamboree! Friendships, memories and new dance moves were made, alongside the girls having the chance to experience a camp consisting of over 4,000 other Girlguiding and Scout members from all over the world!!

Saturday morning was an early start, however the bus journey there was filled with laughter and excitement, along with a few nerves from the girls (and the Leaders!). Once we had arrived the girls soon began to pitch their tents, explore the site and meet others from our subcamp 'Rio de Janeiro'. Once this was complete all six Norjam Subcamps paraded through Norfolk Showground, with banners and flags, ready to watch the amazing opening ceremony. Throughout the week the girls got a chance to take part in lots of different activities including:

**Festival of Velocity:** These activities got "the adrenaline pumping from the epic Dodgeball Arena to the 1,000ft Labyrinth Challenge". Other activities included Land Zorbs, Catapults, High Ropes, Pedal Carts, Laser Clays and a Roller Rink. A few of our girls were brave enough to face their fears of tight spaces and try out the caving experience, their perseverance was admirable and we are so proud of them!

**Bounce and Rebound:** Norjam had loads of inflatables to help our girls "bounce, battle and push their way to proper belly laughs and good times". Other activities in this zone included Bushcraft, Rodeo Bull, an Escape Zone and a Slack Line. A couple of our girls and Volunteers were brave enough to face an activity which required jumping from a large height onto a bouncy mat, best believe the volunteers won't let the girls encourage them to do that again!

**Sweet Shop Academy:** Sweet Shop Academy gave the girls an opportunity to develop their own sweet making business!! The girls were given tokens to purchase any materials/ingredients that were required to develop their sweet treats! Then the girls had to create ideas to advertise, promote and sell their products to the other teams within the activity, but, of course there was a lot of taste testing within the process!

**Festival of Endeavor:** This zone gave girls the chance to "walk away achieving things you never thought you could achieve". New for 2025, Norjam added a "pop up pool" which meant that our girls could try out new water sports such as canoeing, paddleboarding and water zorbing. Members of our group took to the water really well and kept wanting to go back for more!! Other ways to hit new heights included Climbing, Crate Stacking, Abseiling, Bungee Trampolining and more!!

**Carnival Central:** Carnival Central made sure the girls had an absolute blast!!!! Activities included Punch and Judy, Steel drum workshops, Tin Can Alley, Stiff and Stilted and a Silent Disco. All girls loved this zone as it gave them a bit more of a chance to unwind and re-energise before taking on more thrill seeking activities!





**Creative Corner:** With almost 100 crafts, the girls took part in sessions from traditional crafting to modern favourites! This meant that the girls were able to make and create incredible keepsakes to take home with them to remember their epic time at Norjam! This included Norjam Woggles, Glass Engraving, Friendship Bracelets, Lego Woggles, Soap Carving, Bead Flags and lots more! Many of the girls used this zone as an opportunity to create presents for their mums, dads and siblings, which was a lovely thing for them to do!

A few nights at Norjam were celebrated with themed nights such as a Seaside theme, Mardi Gras theme and Norjam's Got Talent! However, the biggest hit each night for both the girls and Leaders was DJ Nick!! DJ Nick soon got the crowd going with his popular party anthems, with some of our girls even getting their shirts signed by him on the final night!



Girlguiding Doddington would love to thank everyone who helped us to give eight young girls and four volunteers the experience of a lifetime at NORJAM 2025!!

Thank you to local village events that allowed us to have a stall to help us fundraise, thank you to everyone who attended our sip and paint evening and finally thank you to our small set of invaluable volunteers who gave up their week to provide the girls with memories that will last a lifetime!

Finally, a HUGE WELL DONE to our eight young members who survived seven nights camping, small showers, late nights and action packed days! After all the exhaustion, we hope you all had a brilliant time, and we could not be more proud of you all!

During the week at Norjam, we were able to take some of our Brownies to experience a day at Norjam. On arrival they were able to attend a special opening ceremony along with lots of other Brownies and Cubs. During the day we visited three of the sub camps, Rio-de-Janeiro, Trinidad and Tobago and Santa Cruz for different activities. This included making parrots and coasters, singing, dancing, stilt walking, donkey derby with jumps and a bean bag game against some Cubs (obviously the Brownies won!), they all had great fun day and are keen to go and stay when they are Guides.



**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](mailto:abbeycater@hotmail.co.uk).**

## Sideways Disinheritance – The Hidden Threat to Your Family's Inheritance

Many people assume their estate will eventually pass to their children, but in blended families this isn't always the case.



Sideways disinheritance can occur when assets left outright to a spouse or partner are later inherited by someone else's family, often after remarriage, unintentionally leaving your own children with nothing.

The solution? Careful estate planning using tools such as Flexible Life Interest Trusts or Discretionary Trusts, supported by a clear letter of wishes. These ensure loved ones are looked after in your lifetime and that your legacy remains protected for future generations.

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Regards,

Colin Barrett - Peritum Wills



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## School Days



September brings mixed emotions for many. Exciting times for little ones who are starting school or anxious times for the older ones moving to new schools. For the parents it can be equally traumatic as your “baby” starts school, moves up to secondary school or begins their final year of full time education.

I personally remember starting school (1962) at the South District Infant School (now the March Museum!!). For the children who stayed for lunch, the classroom was transformed into a small dormitory so that we could all have a rest. My primary education was at the Burrowmoor School and we were the first year group not to take the 11+ examination, so everyone automatically transferred to the Hereward School, or in my case the Cromwell School, as we had now moved to Doddington, so I never attended the Lionel Walden School. The school leaving age was also changed and my year group had to stay in full time education until we were 16 years of age.

For many families, there have been several generations that have attended the local school.

In 1896 Lizzie Harding along with two of her brothers, Herbert and Fisher were pupils at the school. They would all have left school



around 11 years of age and the boys went to work on the land.

A group of scholars of Doddington School in 1896.	
Back row—	Mr. Orton (Schoolmaster), Herbert Mee, Jack Mee, William Mee, Cecil Clarke, Arthur Massey, Bertie Massey, <u>Herbert Harding</u> , Harry Emery and Miss Ada Palmer (teachers).
Second row—	Ethel Yorke, Eliza Ellington, Edith Marchant, Martha Gavins, Annie Webb, Lizzie Jackson, Mary Gavins, Eliza Gavins, and Alice Palmer.
Third row—	May Butcher, George Butcher, Eva Butcher, Jenny Emery, ———, Ethel Gavins, May Gavins, Emily Miller, Agnes Miller, Polly Miller and John Miller.
Front row—	Mabel Emery, Florrie Fisher, Arthur Long, Rhodes Gavins, <u>Fisher Harding</u> , <u>Lizzie Harding</u> , Willie Palmer, Harriett Palmer, and Emily Gray.

Fast forward to 1931 and it was time for Lizzie's son, Herbert to go to school. Young Herb Bradshaw's first day at the Doddington County Council School came when he was almost five years old. The family were then living at The Swan (on the junction of Dykemoor Drove and Benwick Road) with grandparents John and Elizabeth Harding. Mum packed Herb some sandwiches into a "docky" bag, which he carried on his back, then Herb and big brother Ernie were ushered out of the door and the boys walked the three miles to school, Mum didn't take them!

The village school looked considerably different in the 1930s. The headmaster at the time, Mr Sedley lived in the school master's house at the front of the school.



There were 157 pupils on the register the day that Herb started school, aged between 5 and 14 years of age. There was no secondary school, so when they left at 14 they went directly into work, generally on the land.

Herb says there were three class rooms; Miss Marshall with the youngest children and Miss Dack in the same room. Next room was Mr Sedley who taught the eldest children and the only teacher with a room to himself. There were already signs of the school not being big enough as this third classroom contained three classes with a partition down the middle, Mr Cranfield was on one side with Miss Pocock and Miss Hopper on the other! There were no school dinners, only packed lunches. Herb remembered that sometimes, Miss Hopper would make the children a hot drink to have with their sandwiches, but they usually had cold water. All of the toilets were outside.

Herb generally enjoyed his school days, but confessed to having received the cane once, but he wouldn't divulge why! Herb liked Mr Cranfield the only male teacher other than the headmaster, but when Mr Sedley retired in 1936 and moved out of the schoolhouse and into The Hermitage, Mr Stan Payne was offered the headmaster position, Mr Cranfield left and moved to another school.



In 1937, Mr Blanchard joined the staff as a supply teacher. Herb says he was very strict and the children were happy to see him go after only two months!

**Back row:**

Mr Blanchard,  
Gordon Fulcher,  
**Derek Fovargue**,  
Roy Pope, Roy  
Fovargue, Doug  
Southon, **Herbert  
Bradshaw**, Don  
Duffield

**Middle row:**

Eric Watts, Gordon  
Pamby, Sylvia  
Clarke, Venda  
Gibson, Yvonne  
Pamby, **Nancy**

**Kingham**, Roma Wright, Eric Knott, George Sutton

**Front row:** Verna Wool, Dorothy Hart, Rosamund Southon, Jean Richards,  
Cissie Duffield



The school house was demolished in 1939, making room for a large playground at the front of the school. In February 1939 the Cromwell School in Chatteris opened for children of secondary school age. Herb, now 13 years old, was one of the first pupils to attend the school (41 children transferred to the Cromwell on the same day as Herb). However, he wasn't there very long as the school closed in the summer months so that the children could help with the harvest. By the time he should have returned to school, war was imminent, so he didn't go back, and nobody came to see where he was so that was the end of his education!

Move forward almost thirty years and now Herb's son Frank remembers his mum Pam taking him to school on his first day, but after that he walked with his friends, except on Wednesdays when Mrs Mason took the boys to school in the car on her way to the market in March.

Although two teachers were still at the school, Miss Dack (*who retired in 1961 had been the infants teacher since 1923*) and headteacher Mr Stan Payne (*retired in 1972*), there had been a few changes - a canteen was built in 1949. Mrs Feast (good name for a dinner lady ☺) and Mrs Hall, were still serving dinners and both had been there since the canteen opened. The playing field was acquired in 1959 (and hosted the village sports for many years). The boys would play cricket and football against local schools at Benwick, Wimblington and Manea, and all of the children would travel to Chatteris for swimming lessons. There was an opportunity to take the cycling proficiency test, although this was done in the playground as the children were not allowed on the roads! Mr Southon was the first Lollipop man.



Technology was a little different, the television was kept on a trolley so that it could be moved around the school and the infants would listen to Musical Movement on the radio! The older children learnt how to use fountain pens and everyone had to enter a piece of handwriting in the summer show.

In 1965, there were around 85 pupils at the school aged 4 to 11 years. Frank along with Nancy's daughter Rosemary (Boate) and Derek's son Ian were attending the Doddington County Primary School. At this time, there were three full time teachers, Mr and Mrs Payne, and Mrs Nicholson (infants) with Mrs Fisher the infants classroom assistant. There were two part time teachers, Mrs Buzzard girls' needlework and Mrs Franks music and girls' PE. Mrs Jessop replaced Mrs Payne when she retired in 1967.



**Back row (left to right):**

Angela Fisher, Susan Hill, **ROSEMARY BOATE**, Colin Edwards?, Martin Miller?. **FRANK BRADSHAW**, Joy Franks, Marilyn Yates, Ann Jerney, Stephen Edgeley?, Peter Abbs?, Stephen Lilley? Valerie Claridge, Dawn Lenton, Rosemarie Annisewski

**Second row:**

Mrs Fisher, Mrs Payne, Mrs Nicholson, Richard Butcher, Malcolm Perry?, Eunice Edwards, John Abbs, Brian Elmore, Peter Eke, Peter Sutton?, Raymond Mason, John Wright, Alan Wright. Helen Lavender. Steven Heading?, Kenny Fisher?, Shirley Skeels, Margaret Dack, Mrs Buzzard, Mr Payne,

**Third row:**

Lorraine Edgely. Amanda Miller, Lynda Kingham, Duncan Negus?,, Alan Boyden, Dorothy Sutton, Janice Roper? ,John Legge?, Denise Wool. Wally Benton, Barry Crowe?, Stephen Kilby, John Dickerson, Burns?, Robert Shaw, Joanne Stimpson, Rosemarie Lilley, Helen Franks,

**Fourth row:**

Faye Lenton, Elaine Sutton, Beryl Eke, Paul Ponder, Nigel Crowe, Sharon Parker, Gwendoline Benton, Chris Boyden, Kevin Sutton, Michael Fresher?, Elaine Barlow, Carol Jerney, Stephen Eke, ?, David Edwards, Alan Buzzard, Alan Mason, Burns?, Eddie Benton?, Gary Sutton,

**Bottom row:**

Winifred Annisewski, Janek Annisewski, Deborah Edgeley, Daphne Claridge?, **IAN FOVARGUE**, Pauline Fisher, Chris Hamps? ,?, Carol Benton?,, Stephen Sutton?, Brian Lavender?,,

The village School first opened in 1789 as the Charity School of Lionel Walden, the result of a legacy left in 1719 by Lionel Walden, a wealthy landowner in the village.  
..... continued over .....

Following the 1870 Education Act the school system changed and by 1877 the charity had been wound up and the school became funded by rate payers. A new school was built, and it became the Doddington Board School. More changes came in 1903 when the County Council took full control under (another) new Education Act and it became The Doddington County Council School, changing to the Doddington County Primary School when the seniors went to Cromwell School in 1939. The last change was in 1967 when the founder of the school was again recognised, and it became the Lionel Walden School.

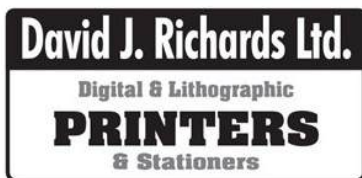
For the children beginning their primary school journey at the Lionel Walden Primary School this September, it will be different again. While the children still start school in the September following their fourth birthday, many will have already attended the school's Pre-School, which is located in the same building as the Reception class. This familiarity helps the children feel more comfortable and confident as they move into full-time education.

The school now admits up to 30 children into the Reception class each year and they start attending full-time from the beginning of the term, including staying for lunch. However, to help prepare them, all new starters are invited into school for a transition morning in July, where they have the chance to meet their teacher and support staff, and to spend time in their new classroom.

Reception children are also paired with Year 6 buddies. These older pupils help the younger children settle in, especially in the dining hall, where they guide them through lunchtime routines and help them feel at ease.

The children also have a dedicated outdoor area adjacent to the classroom. Here, they can take part in curriculum-based activities in the fresh air and participate in forest school sessions, held in a natural woodland environment. These sessions provide valuable opportunities for children to develop personal, social, and practical skills through engaging, hands-on experiences.

September can be a daunting month for the children and although some things have changed over the last 90 years, much of school life is just the same today as it has always been. Thank you to everyone who have shared "their school memories" and we wish all of the children well, whether they are starting school for the first time, returning to familiar surroundings or are moving to a new school.



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## Recreation Committee

A big thank you goes to Nigel from the British Red Cross for delivering an excellent free First Aid workshop at the Pavilion on 13th August. The session covered all the basics of first aid, including CPR and how to correctly use a defibrillator. It was a really valuable evening and we're grateful to Nigel and the British Red Cross for their time and support.



If anyone would like to make a donation to the British Red Cross to support the vital work they do, please visit: [donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/community-education](https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/community-education).

Our next Prize Bingo Night will take place on Thursday 18th September. Doors open at 7.00pm, with eyes down at 7.30pm. Come along for a fun night out and the chance to win some great grocery prizes. Free refreshments are provided, or you're welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks.



Don't forget you can also support the Pavilion and Recreation Ground by joining our One Lottery. Tickets cost just £1 per week, with a weekly cash prize winner, and 50% of all ticket sales coming directly back to support our facilities. Simply visit [www.onelottery.co.uk](http://www.onelottery.co.uk) and search for Doddington Recreation Committee to sign up.

The Pavilion is available to hire for a wide variety of events including children's parties, family gatherings, baby showers, christenings and more. With both indoor and outdoor space available, it's a great venue for any occasion. Please contact us for further details.

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# Askham Xmas Fayre



**Saturday,  
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**11am to 4pm**

The cost of a stall is £10. For further details, please do not hesitate to contact our Activities team via phone at 01354 740269 or via email at [activities@askhamvillagecommunity.com](mailto:activities@askhamvillagecommunity.com)

**Askham**  
Village Community



## Women's Institute



Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, including two visitors, Sarah Young and Anne Zeraschi.

Congratulations were given to Jo Dale, Anthea Hart, Elaine Stratford and Sally Graham who all had success in the recent Horticultural Show. There were various invitations and events coming up and members were asked to sign up if interested. Margaret Playford has agreed to make lemon drizzle cake for the Isle Cup Competition.

There was a reminder that next year's speakers and competitions would be discussed at Sally Shortland's home on Wednesday 20th August at 2.30pm.

Fundraising has been successful this year with the Carnival, Horticultural Show, Christmas Lights event and the Plant and Cake sale.

The speaker for the evening was Diane Carlton Smith talking about what it was like for a boy going to school in medieval times in Wisbech. She brought along her books which could be purchased. Diane was thanked for a very interesting talk by Elaine Stratford.

The competition was for something 'obscure' and there were many odd items on the table. The winner was Jo Dale with 20 points.

Refreshments were provided by the Committee. The meeting ended with the National Anthem. For more information about the W.I. contact Elaine Stratford (tel. 462057) or [elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:elainestratford@tiscali.co.uk)



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## Short Mat Bowls Club

On Sunday 29th June players from Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Northants & Essex competed for this years Chloe Shield title. Entries were at their highest level with 57 bowlers present equating to 19 Triples teams.

The Sutton St Edmunds trio played to defend their 2024 title but this year they only managed one win finishing in 18th position. After 5 games, this year's winners were P Griffiths, C West & K West (Cams), with Essex runners up and Hertfordshire third.



A 'fun' scorecard quiz was available for teams to take part in during the day, a prize was awarded to S Stanford, B Stanford and M Spriggs who finished top of the scoresheet with 35 points. This year the chosen charity was 'Arthur Rank Hospice Charity' and the club was delighted to confirm £511 was raised on the day.

## Cambs League News

The clubs Division 2 Jaguars team had a successful season in 2024/25 winning the league and gaining promotion to Division 1. The team were recently presented with the winner's shield. As the new league season approaches both Doddington teams will be going into the new season in Division 1.



## Hog Roast and Race Night

On 13<sup>th</sup> September we will be hosting our annual Hog Roast and Race Night. This is an opportunity for the local community to get together for a fun night at the races and to support MAGPAS Air Ambulance. So far, this event has raised an incredible £8,000 for the charity and this year we hope we can push towards £10,000! Tickets are £10 each which includes entry and a Hog Roast Meal, and they are on sale on a first come served basis. To book tickets please contact Rob on 07837601468 or book online using the following QR code...



## Parish Council

Village maintenance: A contract has been agreed with a tree surgeon to undertake some of the works outlined in the recent survey of the trees around the boundary of the Abbey Recreation grounds to improve their condition. Once this has been completed, we will look to clear parts of the undergrowth to create a possible nature walk.

The pathway connecting Wood Street with Cedar Avenue is often overgrown and as neither the County Council nor the District Council will take on the responsibility of its maintenance, the Parish Council is arranging for the grass to be cut and the overgrown bushes to be cut back. Our contractor will then maintain the pathway, on a regular basis, to ensure that the current issues are kept under control.

The Parish Council's discussions with suppliers of additional play equipment being installed on the Abbey recreation field, will now include the possibility of a MUGA play area (*Multi-Use Games Area, is a space designed for a variety of sports and recreational activities.*)

The Parish Council's website can be viewed at

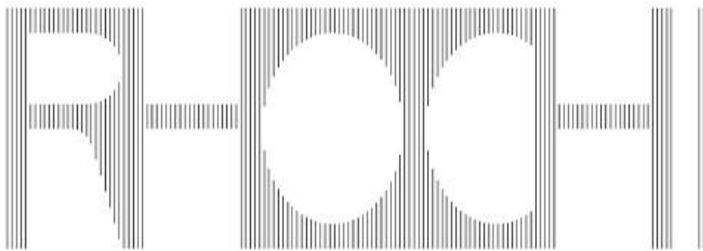
[www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

with a contact page to the Clerk of the Parish Council - office hours are usually

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

You can also contact the Chair on 01354 740323 or 07787 631 153 or

[Chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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## Love It, Hate It, Shape It – Doddington

We have been asked to share this Questionnaire with every household in the village.



Please send your responses to us by September 30th by posting them in the collection boxes at The Three Tuns, The One Stop Shop in High Street, or at Doddington Newsagent, High Street. There is also a copy on our website under WhatsOn.

As a thank you, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £20 vouchers from local amenities.

---

## Love It, Hate It, Shape It – Doddington

What are the best things about Doddington? What could be better? Is there enough for you and your family to do?

*Estimated time to complete: 10–15 minutes*

Support Fenland, a Support Cambridgeshire project, is working in Doddington to help shape community projects that improve the lives of local people. We want to find out what residents like and dislike about their village, identify what's missing, and support them to make positive changes in their community.

Community projects might include pre-school groups, youth clubs, sports and exercise groups, support for older people or those with additional needs, faith groups, community car schemes, book clubs, community choirs, drawing classes, sewing clubs, gardening clubs, coffee mornings, and cookery clubs. It includes organisations that support a range of activities, such as a residents' association, neighbourhood watch scheme, or a timebank.

We especially welcome responses from young people, families, older residents, and anyone who feels their voice isn't always heard.

Complete the survey for a chance to *win one of three £20 vouchers from local and national amenities!*

Please encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to complete this survey and make a difference, either on paper or online at: <https://forms.gle/t7AdvYQ3XBz5wdYPA>

The bigger the response, the better our chances of making good things happen.

If you have any further comments, please contact us at  
fenland@supportcambridgeshire.org.uk

1. What do you love most about living in Doddington?  
(Feel free to list places, people, events, or anything else!)
- 

2. Do you find anything frustrating about life in the village? If so, what?
- 

3. Which of the following words best describe Doddington to you?  
Please circle all that apply (positive, neutral, or negative):  
Friendly – Safe – Quiet – Busy – Vibrant – Isolated – Relaxed – Clean – Scruffy –  
Sociable – Tolerant – Diverse – Noisy – Dull – Rough – Scary – Lonely – Antisocial –  
Stuffy – Narrow-minded – Cliquey – Disconnected – Attractive
- 

4. How has Doddington changed in the past 10 years (or since you moved here)?  
For better or worse?
- 

5. Which additional local groups, clubs, or events have you (or someone in your household) taken part in during the last year?  
What did you think of them?
- 

6. Is there enough going on in Doddington for you and your household?  
☐ Yes    ☐ A fair amount    ☐ Not much    ☐ No    ☐ Don't know

7. Would you like to see any new activities/clubs and events?
- 

8. Do you think Doddington needs more spaces for people to meet and socialise (e.g. café, co-working space, youth centre)?  
If yes, what kind of spaces would you use?
- 

9. How easy is it to get around Doddington for people with mobility issues (e.g. wheelchairs, pushchairs)?

If there are any problem areas (e.g. overgrown paths, lack of dropped curbs), please explain:



10. Do you feel safe in Doddington, day and night?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ Sometimes    ☐ No    ☐ Not sure

11. How old are you?

- ☐ Under 18    ☐ 18–30    ☐ 31–50    ☐ 51–70    ☐ Over 70

12. What is your postcode?

(This is only used to understand which areas are responding – you won't be contacted.)

13. Do you feel Doddington is affordable to live in?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ Somewhat    ☐ No    ☐ Not sure

14. Would you like to see more support for:

- ☐ Local businesses    ☐ Job opportunities    ☐ Affordable housing    ☐ None of the above

15. Are there any barriers that make it harder for you (or someone in your household) to take part in village activities?

- ☐ Cost    ☐ Transport    ☐ Childcare    ☐ Disability or health issues    ☐ Lack of time  
☐ Not feeling welcome    ☐ Lack of information    ☐ Language or cultural differences  
☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_    ☐ No barriers

16. Would you support more community-led environmental projects in Doddington?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ Maybe    ☐ No

17. If yes or maybe, which would interest you most?

- ☐ Tree planting    ☐ Litter picks    ☐ Community composting  
☐ Wildlife habitats    ☐ Renewable energy (solar panels, etc.)  
☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

18. Would you be interested in volunteering or sharing a skill with the community?

- ☐ Yes    ☐ Maybe    ☐ No

19. If yes or maybe, what could you offer?

- ☐ Helping at events    ☐ Teaching a hobby or skill    ☐ Driving or transport help  
☐ Admin or tech support    ☐ Gardening or maintenance    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. What's the best way for the community to share news and updates with you?

- ☐ Facebook/Instagram   ☐ WhatsApp or messaging groups   ☐ Email newsletters  
☐ Printed flyers/posters   ☐ Doddington Diary   ☐ Website   ☐ Other:
- 

21. How do you usually find out what's going on in the village?

- ☐ Word of mouth   ☐ social media   ☐ Doddington Diary   ☐ Posters  
☐ WhatsApp groups   ☐ Village Scene   ☐ Other (please specify):
- 

22. What new thing would you most love to see happen?

23. Is public transport sufficient for you? If not, please explain why.

---

24. Would you like to be more involved in local activities or projects?

If yes or maybe, please leave your name and contact details (optional):

25. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

(Any big ideas, small fixes, or feedback welcome!)

---

Whether you love village life just as it is, have ideas for improvement, or feel there's something missing — your voice matters. By taking a few moments to complete this survey, you're helping to build a better, more connected Doddington for everyone.

From book clubs to bus routes, youth spaces to garden spaces, positive change starts with community input. Please share this with your family, friends, and neighbours, and help us hear from as many residents as possible. Every response brings us closer to meaningful action.

Please send your responses to us by September 30th by posting them in the collection boxes at The Three Tuns, The One Stop Shop in High Street, or at Doddington Newsagent, High Street

As a thank you, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £20 vouchers from local amenities.

Fill in your form here.

Next Steps

We'll share the results with the community later this year and follow up on the most popular ideas. Together, we'll work to bring these improvements to life.

Questions? Contact us at [fenland@supportcambridgeshire.org.uk](mailto:fenland@supportcambridgeshire.org.uk)

Love it. Hate it. Help shape it. This is your village, so make your voice count.

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## Doddington Meridian Posts

Many of you will know that we are still relative newcomers to Doddington. We relocated from the West Midlands just over five years ago and we are fascinated by the local history and Fenland life. (I am still getting my head around the fact that Doddington was an island and in Medieval times the Bishops used to travel by boat from Ely to Peterborough and stay in Doddington at the Bishop's Palace. Also fascinating is the fact that the Bishop of Ely was paid rent in *ee/s*).

I digress. A few months ago, I was excited to learn that Doddington sits on the Greenwich Meridian Line. Since 1884 all distances east and west have been measured from the Prime Meridian line in Greenwich (zero degrees longitude) and that line stretches to the north and the south.

If you have visited Greenwich, you may have stood with one foot either side of the physical line that identifies the exact spot – one foot in the east and one foot in the west. Lots of towns and villages celebrate the fact the meridian runs through their land, and it was good to know that Doddington has two wooden markers near to where Floods Ferry Road joins Benwick Road, one on the east and one on the west side of the road.

Last month I received a message to say, “the Doddington Meridian Markers had rotted away at the bottom and fallen over!” A local resident kindly rescued them and has stored them in the dry until we decide what to do. They appear to be beyond repair but asking around there seems to be a lot of support to have them replaced.



I am now on a fact-finding mission. If anyone can remember who originally commissioned them, and has any information, please let me know. Our village historian, David Edwards, has looked back through his archives and thinks they may have been installed in the 1980s, at the same time there was a request to change the name of Floods Ferry Road to Meridian Way – that was refused by the PC and never happened.

We don't think it was a national project or even a County Council project because the markers in other places are all different (Somersham, Comberton, Orwell etc.) and some have been paid for by fund raising, the local council or bequests. One of the most impressive I have found is to the north at Cleethorpes.

I have asked the Parish Council if they could agenda the topic for the next meeting. Nothing has been decided yet, whether we try to restore the rotten ones or consider something more permanent made from stone.

Having the position identified literally puts Doddington “on the map” and is something I feel we should be proud of. Please email or message me (Facebook) if you have any information or would just like to show your support.

**Ruth Hopkins** [Cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ruthhopkins@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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## Doddington Horticultural Society



The 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Show was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July in the heart of the village at the Benwick Road Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

Thank you to everyone who attended, entered the competitions, bought raffle tickets or came along to the Silent Disco on show night. Your support made it all worthwhile.

This year we had more classes for exhibits and more trophies than before. Following feedback, we recategorized the Children's Section and tweaked the classes in other sections. We moved the Children's



Section into the marquee alongside the rest of the exhibits, and we were delighted by the numbers of entries and the support from local families, the **Lionel Walden School** and **Doddington Guides and Brownies**. The display of entries was amazing and there was some very strong competition.

Despite the weather leading up to show day not being the best for produce (scorching hot and torrential rain) we had a record number of entries in total. The flowers, fruit and vegetables sections took the biggest hit, but we still had a good display. We had record entries in the photography section and lots and lots of handicrafts, art, cookery and preserves. We are very grateful to our **team of judges** who had some very difficult decisions to make.

All sections had several first-time exhibitors, which was great to see. One visitor said that she didn't know the show was open to everyone, she thought it was for members only - something we will need to remember when advertising the show in 2026.

The marquee and the exhibits are at the heart of the show but there are lots more attractions for visitors. There was more room in the pavilion for the amazing **Doddington WI** ladies to serve tea and homemade cakes and to find our village historian, **David Edwards**.



This year we had about 30 stallholders, food vans, the barbecue, the dog show (organised by **The Cambridge Dog Co**), croquet, the children's play area and a fabulous display of classic and treasured cars for everyone to admire. We plan on bringing the Arena back in 2026 so we will be looking for a variety of local artists to showcase their talents.

There is a lot of planning and hard work by a relatively small committee and group of volunteers, and we are very grateful to everyone who gave their time. Rising essential costs make it harder each year to break even. Every advert in the schedule generates income for the show, thank you to all the local businesses who contributed. We are indebted to our main sponsor, **AgriMech** for their generosity and to our section sponsors for their support; **Megaplants** (Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers), **The Three Tuns** (Cookery and Preserves), **Askham Village Community** (Art) and **Ellis Winters** (Handicrafts). Thank you to **Chapel Cottage Plants Outlet** for donating plants for us to sell at the Carnival and the Village Show, it makes a huge difference and helps to keep the atmosphere of the show.

We are very grateful to other organisations in the village for their support including **1<sup>st</sup> Doddington Scout Group** for organising the barbecue, the **WI** for pavilion refreshments, **Carnival and Sports** for providing fencing, **Christmas Lights** for the disco lights and **1<sup>st</sup> Doddington Scout Group** and the **Church Rooms** for the loan of tables.

We have lots of ideas for 2026 and we are always open to suggestions. Following the changes to classes made this year it is unlikely they will alter again next year – so you can all start planning early because this year's schedule is still available to view on the What's On page of the **Doddington Diary** website.

As soon as the show is over, we start looking forward and planning for the next one. We will review this year's event and listen to feedback from exhibitors and visitors. If you have any ideas, please get in touch.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Tombola at the Christmas Lights event.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March - The Third Doddington Scone Off at the Village Hall.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July – 79<sup>th</sup> Doddington Village 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) or from: 07757 730425 (Hilton) or 07815 462796 (Ruth) or email

[doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com](mailto:doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com)

## **Doddington Horticultural Society WINNERS**

Short Family Shield  
Dack Family Shield  
Mears Memorial Cup  
C R Clarke Annual Memorial Cup  
Don Hipkin Cup  
Watson Family Cup  
John Yorke Annual Memorial Cup  
Payne Family Shield  
Eric Mason Memorial Cup  
Bester Annual Memorial Cup  
Elmore Family Shield  
Ellington / Bamford Challenge Cup  
Home Guard Shield  
Mary Jackson Cup  
Doddington WI Cup  
Archer Shield  
Emma Ellington Annual Memorial Cup  
Roma Wright Cup  
Green Family Cup  
Spiers Family Cup  
Nikey Robinson Cup  
Welsh Family Annual Challenge Cup  
(Primrose Cup)  
Boyden Annual Family Challenge Cup  
Southon Family Annual Memorial Cup  
Future Stars Cup  
Jackson Annual Memorial Cup  
Fenland Citizen Cup  
Aubrey & Doris Negus Cup  
Roger Lewis Shield  
Hopkins Family Cup  
Geoffrey Harper Shield  
Edwards Shield  
Fenland Citizen Cup  
  
Irene Short Memorial Cup  
Bill & Olive Dickerson Shield  
Emmett Family Shield

Vegetable Section  
Best Vegetable in show  
Best Wonky Vegetable in Show  
Fruit Section  
Flower Section  
Best Flower in show  
Vase of Sweet Peas  
Hybrid Tea Rose  
Bowl of Roses  
Fuchsia plant in pot  
Photography section  
Adult Art section  
Cookery & Preserves section  
Best in Cookery  
Best Jar of Jam  
Handicrafts section  
Best needlework article in show  
Best knitted article in show  
Top Girl - 4 years & under  
Top boy - 4 years & under  
Best in section - 4 years & under  
  
Top girl - 5 -7 years  
Top boy - 5-7 years  
Best in Section - 5-7 years  
Top girl 8 -10 years  
Top boy - 8-10 years  
Best in section - 8-10 years  
Top girl 11-13 years  
Top boy 11 -13 years  
Best in section 11-13 years  
Top girl - 14 -16 years  
Top boy - 14 -16 years  
Best in section - 14-16 years  
Best vegetable sculpture in children's sec  
Adult with most points in show  
Child with most points in show

CHRIS SAVILL  
JULIE WHEELER  
JO DALE  
CHRIS SAVILL  
ANTHEA HART  
ELAINE STRATFORD  
ROY DAVIS  
CHRIS BILLINGHAM  
N/A



JO DALE  
SALLY GRAHAM  
DEBORAH WINN  
ANTHEA HART  
ANTHEA HART  
LIZ GRIGGS  
ANTHEA HART  
LESLEY DONOVAN  
UNA HEBBLEWIGHT  
ANNIE FOSBUEARY  
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BLUEBELLE STARR  
ARTHUR ELLIS  
BLUEBELLE STARR  
ROSIE FOUNTAIN  
ALBERT BURLING  
ROSIE FOUNTAIN  
FLORENCE COULSON  
CHARLIE WINN  
CHARLIE WINN  
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N/A  
ELLIE LAVER



ROSIE FOUNTAIN  
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Doddington Scout Group



For this month's article, my focus is a little different – I'd like to give you a flavour of the opportunities being part of the Worldwide family of Scouting can bring.

Joshua, who is 19 years old, is one of our adult leaders who volunteers primarily within our Scout Section leadership team. His Scouting journey began when he joined 1<sup>st</sup> Doddington as a Beaver at the age of 6, he went through Cubs, Scouts and Explorers with us, becoming a Young Leader along the way. When he reached 18 he became an adult leader. He was also part of "Network" (the section that allows 18-25 year olds to continue their Scouting into young adulthood, and to support them to become a leader should they wish to).

Last year, Joshua decided to apply to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> World Scout Moot which takes place every 4 years and is an international gathering of over 5,000 Scouts aged 18 to 25 years old from around the world. They come together to share cultures, learn from each other and gain new skills. Joshua was lucky enough to be chosen through a ballot and so at the end of July, he was off to Portugal.

The opening ceremony was in Lisbon. Almost all countries from around the world were represented, with 5,000 participants including 510 from the UK.



The youngsters joined different Patrols to explore everything Portugal has to offer, culture, food, adventure, nature and more. For Joshua (and 40 others of all nationalities) it was the Portugal Deep Dive, taking a train from Lisbon to Vizela. They experienced the local culture and history, including the thermal baths which date back to the Roman times. They took part in water sports, and painted a statue with residents from a local care home.

After a few days, the group took the train to the 9<sup>th</sup> Century village of Cortegaça (about the size of Doddington) and the home of the Jamboree style camp. All 5,000 participants arrived for the "camp opening ceremony", where a stage had been setup by the beach. During the main camp there were lots of activities to choose from, Joshua chose to learn about Mental Health First Aid; a great skill to have to assist others as well as look after ourselves. Another notable experience was a cellar tour of Taylors Port!

Joshua said: ***"The experience has been life changing, and has opened my eyes to such a wide world of cultural differences, and has changed my view of the wider world. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity – I would recommend it to others and will be encouraging our Explorers to apply for the next one in 2029"***

Joshua took the "Fenland Flag" to display and share with others from across the world. He took many photos of it in different Portuguese locations and at one point the Fenland Tiger was alongside the Welsh Dragon!



Joshua's passion when talking about his experience, and the numerous photos he has, are testament to an amazing adventure, all made possible through Scouting. He has brought back loads of contacts that we will now be using to help our Scouts connect with other Scouts across the world.

I have known Joshua since he was a 6-year-old Beaver. The comment that really made me smile was that he has **"made friendships with people from every continent"**. That is truly amazing, and demonstrates one of many benefits and opportunities that being part of a worldwide membership organisation can bring. I sincerely hope we have more of our young people able to take part in 2029 in Taiwan – I know Joshua will be sharing his story and experiences within the Group as we start back this term!








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Find out more about volunteering opportunities for however much/little time you can offer, either in the background or with our Young People in their sections.

Contact Alys our Group Lead Volunteer:

[leadvolunteer@doddingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:leadvolunteer@doddingtonscouts.org.uk) or  
07900 584182

### CONTACT US

Scouting is for everyone aged 4-18y, and 18+ as an adult volunteer or Network member. Want to find out more about Scouting; either for a child to join, or to find out more about volunteering 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: 07900 584182 or [Alys.Turner@doddingtonscouts.org.uk](mailto:Alys.Turner@doddingtonscouts.org.uk)

# [www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk](http://www.doddingtonscouts.org.uk)

1st Doddington Scout Group. Charity Number: 1204134

I would like to talk about something different this month.

Outside of my interests in graphic art, I am active in a group based in Chatteris called the "u3a". It used to be called the University of the Third Age, but people finally realised that it is not a university and is not restricted to whatever you might call the "third age", so now it is just u3a and we try to avoid giving out the old name (just like IBM doesn't want people remembering when they made "Business Machines").

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The u3a is a charity that is open to people who "are no longer in full-time employment", for whatever reason.

The u3a has a monthly meeting in which a speaker is invited to talk about a variety of topics including Romany culture, Norfolk seals, armed police and the life of a stunt woman. We also have a large number of interest groups as varied as wine tasting, French conversation, golf, singing, scrabble, rambling and a lot more - these usually also meet once or twice per month. We also organise regular outings to plays or Christmas markets further afield.

Other than our yearly fee of £20, all activities are free and covered by appropriate insurance, with a contribution from participants only to cover specific expenses (such as renting a meeting room or refreshments). On August 30th we are even starting a new group with a visit to Doddington church, with explanations by our local historian David Edwards and you are very welcome to come along and join us!

Peter Leeson



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## Christmas Lights



The Doddington Christmas Lights Committee would like to offer its condolences to the family of Lisa Fisher-Cole who passed away recently and who was a member of our committee. She will be sadly missed.

The first draws have been made for the Doddington Christmas Lights Summer 10 Week Draw and winners have received their cash prizes. The draws have been made in the One Stop shop by members of the public who were in the shop. It has been filmed and put on Facebook for all to see. Many thanks to the One Stop for hosting the draws. You are still able to purchase tickets at the One Stop and will have the chance of being drawn out during September with the final big cash prizes being drawn on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Watch out for our collection envelopes in the October Diary for anyone who wishes to donate money towards the costs of repairing and maintaining the Christmas Lights.

Last year we introduced sponsorship of the large displays around the village as well as the individual poles with decorations. This proved to be very successful and will be continued again this year. More information will be available in the October edition of the Doddington Diary but if you require further information now please contact us at [doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com](mailto:doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com) or on our Facebook page: Doddington Xmas Lights.

We are delighted to announce that the lights will be switched on by the carnival Prince and Princess, Toby and Alessia, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025. Many thanks to them.

### Contact Details

**EMAIL:** [doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com](mailto:doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com)

**TEXT OR PHONE:** 07935282070

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## **Doddington 80 Years Ago : September 1945**

The family of Pte Fred Buck of Copalder Farm received news that he was now in Australia, having been a prisoner of war since the fall of Singapore in 1942. Mr J Duffield, Newgate, received news that his son, Pte Jack Duffield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Cambridgeshire Regiment, was now in India, also having been a PoW since the fall of Singapore.

Trips for children as part of the VJ Day celebrations continued and two buses took the Wimblington Road children and their parents to Wicksteed Park, each child was given 7s 6d. Four buses took 44 children and 98 adults from Benwick Road to Hunstanton and another 80 children and their parents from Newgate/Primrose Hill went to Wicksteed Park, each child was given 10s spending money.

After a five year gap, due to the war, the Methodist Sunday School resumed its annual trip to Hunstanton and 80 children and friends went by bus.

The Parish Council received a petition from the residents of Benwick Road asking for the electricity mains to be extended from the Hermitage to the Washbrook Lane.

The Doddington War Comforts Committee gave the following details of those service men and women they had helped; a total of 132 members were helped, 97 were still on the books, 49 of whom were still overseas. Twenty had been discharged during the five years, seven of whom were women, four members had been transferred to the Benwick list, five had moved away from the area and four killed in action. 2,733 packages had been dispatched, containing woollen comforts, books of stamps, cigarettes and money. £1,886 was raised during the war to supply these items with a balance in hand of £645. It was proposed to give £5 to each member serving up to VJ Day on discharge or demobilization. Mrs JW Whittome was chairman and Mrs HP Morton secretary and treasurer, ably assisted by Mesdames Pooley, Darwood and Mould.

The Annual Hospital Sunday returned to its pre-war date of the first Sunday after 19th September. The parade was headed by the Hospital Sunday banner carried by the local Army Cadets under Lt SR Payne, the British Legion standard followed with its bearer Mr F Kingham, then the Ely Sea Cadet Corps Bugle Band, the Red Cross Detachment under Mrs HA Wool, members of the Friendly Societies, the March Railway Silver Prize Band. The parade was concluded by two floats, one depicting a children's hospital ward with Joy Carrington and Jean Palmer as nurses, Mr J Hudson as a doctor and young Kathleen Palmer as the patient in a cot. The other float represented the activities of the Women's Institute and was prepared by Mesdames Darwood, Ellington, Morton, T Jackson and Miss Ashdown. A church service followed and then the parade continued to the Hospital where the bands entertained the staff and patients. Evening events were spoiled by rain.



Two sisters, the daughters of Mr and Mrs CG Edgeley of Cooks Green were married at the Methodist church. The first ceremony was on the Tuesday, Pte Doris Edgeley ATS married L/Ac John Strudwick RAF of Surrey.

Then the following Saturday, the 22nd September, her younger sister Pte Alison Margaret Edgeley ATS married Rifleman Bernard Hill, Royal Irish Rifles, of March. (pictured right)



### Doddington 50 Years Ago : September 1975

Fire destroyed the garage adjoining Bert Winkworth's D.I.Y. shop in the High Street. Mr Winkworth's daughter, Frances, had just become the Cambridgeshire Times' Doddington village correspondent, succeeding Mrs Doreen Murden.

Concern was expressed by the Doddington Hospital Action Group that the children's ward was being converted for use by adult patients.

Barry Crowe was one of 200 members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Battalion Territorial Army to take part in a parachute jump in Holland to commemorate the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

To be continued....David Edwards

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## 100th Club

Sunshine and laughs; the annual Hunstanton trip was a lovely day out for the 100th Club members on the 12th August. It was very warm but a pleasant breeze came off the sea to cool us all down.



At the 21st August club gathering we had a great presentation by 'The Ferry Project' Charity based in Wisbech. Alison Crouch did a demonstration of how to prepare and cook 'One-Pot Wonder Meals'. We learnt easy ways to cook healthily for one person while spending less and there were so many different variations! Free courses are offered to all Fenland residents over 65 years of age - definitely a wonderful and simple way to make sure that you are meeting all your nutritional needs! Contact 01945 754080 for more information.



The newly installed Hearing Loop, sponsored by Care Together Cambridgeshire County Council, was welcomed by many as a very valuable aid. After the 3pm teatime and biscuit break we held a quiz with prizes for the winners followed by the 100th Club's famous raffle.

Dates for your diary:

•**18<sup>th</sup> September; 1- 3pm** at the Pavilion, we are having our annual Macmillan Cancer Fundraiser. We kindly ask for donations of cakes. Donations can be made by searching Justgiving CM25003088 or scanning this barcode. Members will also enjoy a Fish and Chip Lunch. We thank Doddington Fish Bar for their continued support.

•**16th October; 2-4pm** at the Pavilion, there will be a very informative presentation by James Carney, Community Fire Safety Officer from Wisbech Fire Station on 'Safety in the Home'. We also urge all members and their guests to come along to hear this extremely important advice. Members are also reminded to please bring bottles for the club fundraiser Tombola at the Christmas Lights switch-on event which will be held on 22nd November at the Methodist Church.

For further details about the 100th Club please contact:

Val Opperman (Chair) 073929 94294

Heather Kilby (Secretary) 07870 483195

or email: [Doddington100thClub@outlook.com](mailto:Doddington100thClub@outlook.com)  
(supported by Cambridgeshire County Council)



# THRIFT SHOP



After our August Thrift shop, one of our thrifty volunteers said **"A lovely lady told me how she looked forward to coming to the Thrift shop and how nice everyone was to her"**. That's so good to hear and we certainly try to give a happy and warm welcome to all our customers, old and new.

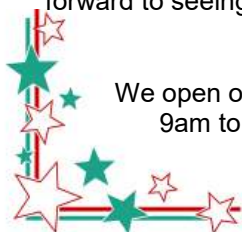


August's recycling, donating and bargain shopping raised an impressive £611. (£112 from Cafe sales). We genuinely apologise that our lovely cakes and savouries ran out early (for the first time ever) but rest assured we will bake extra next month!



We are pleased to share that for the next twelve months we will be donating 10% of our raised funds each month to The Guide dogs for the Blind. I hope you share our warm glow of goodness in this!

As always a huge thank you to our amazing and hard working volunteer team and of course to all our donaters, shoppers, gardeners, veggie growers, recyclers, up cyclers, fashionistas and thrifty supporters. We look forward to seeing you next month 4th September, 9am to 1pm.



**Future Dates:** 2/10, 6/11, 4/12

We open on the Wednesday before to accept donated items from 9am to 11am. Hope to see you in July for more thriftiness!

**Jan Holdich** on 07305 799 257

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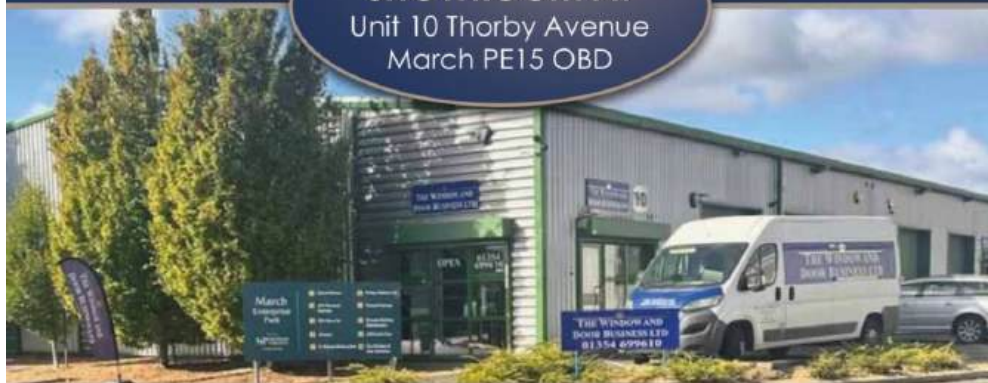


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