

Doddington

DIARY



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Dear Residents of Doddington

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Summer Show and especially all of the winners. If, like Helen, (see page 15) you are inspired to enter next year, this year's schedule is still available on the What's On page of our website - take a look and have a go!

For many people, September feels more like the beginning of a new year than January does. It is beginning to feel like Autumn, especially in the evenings and the children have finished the long summer holidays and are all ready to start school again. For some this will be a daunting time, as they start school for the first time, or move to new schools while others will be making choices now they have their exam results. We will be thinking about you all as the new school term begins.

The village activities are also reflecting a change in the season and it is only a few short weeks before we will be Celebrating the Harvest again! This year the annual harvest festival has been extended to a whole weekend of celebrations, including flowers and music. We do hope that you will pop along to the church over the first weekend in October, to support all of the clubs and organisations that have agreed to take part. Tickets for the Saturday evening entertainment are still available from doddingtondiary@gmail.com.

If you are looking for something new to do with your time this Autumn, you could consider volunteering to help either with the Village Show or Recreation Committee, or maybe join the Parish Council - help the village and make new friends!

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

From Sally, the Editor

Doddington Diary Deadlines and Contact Details

Doddington Diary website: www.doddingtondiary.co.uk

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

Contact us by Email: doddingtondiary@gmail.com

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

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A Message from the Rectory



It is a great honour to introduce you to our Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community in our village.

From Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October St Mary's church will be open for everyone to see over twenty floral arrangements, each one celebrating community connections.

We will also be welcoming children from Lionel Walden School and the Open the Book team (and their helpers!) will be telling the story of Joseph (who managed times of both plentiful harvests and famine). David Edwards will be on hand to talk about the church and my illustrious predecessors as Rectors, and on Saturday night we look forward to the Upwood Ukulele Band for a night of musical entertainment. On Sunday I invite you to join us for our Harvest Service and Songs of Praise with grateful thanks to local farmers who grow their produce.

Harvest Festivals date back to medieval times when all who worked on the land gave thanks for the harvest and had a party to celebrate. But, we all know that farming today is no longer the soft focus, dewy-eyed picture of romantic couples playing in the haystacks. Farming is hard work, driven by global market prices, and increasingly affected by unpredictable climate change. Harvesting the wheat in early July? When did that last happen? As Jesus himself said, 'Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest' and this occurred before we even reached August.

If I were to stick my neck out, and be prophetic like Jesus, I reckon within the decade, climate change will probably cause new wars around the world. Places that used to produce food won't produce so much, and it will take time to develop new crops where they previously didn't grow. All the same, the food security of our nation will be increasingly important. We need to produce enough food to feed ourselves. Countries that don't have enough food, will fight to get it.

Sadly we are reluctant to have this difficult conversation in public. But the hot summer has made us wonder whether we shouldn't value more the work our farming sector does for our village and for the nation. There are tough times ahead and when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Join our community celebrations this Harvest time, and make a few new friends, because when the chips are down, we all need each other.

Want to discuss this, then please get in touch?

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

St Mary's Church Services



Sunday 6th September

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

Tuesday 8th September

1.30 pm **Cafe Church Anniversary Service, Church Rooms, Doddington**



Sunday 13th September

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

Sunday 20th September

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

Sunday 27th September

10.30 am Holy Communion, Wimblington
10.30 am Morning Prayer, Manea
3.0 m Holy Communion, Welney

***Services to be held in the original church building in Christchurch. A 'hard hat' will be needed when attending these services.**



Café Church



It's hard to believe that it is a year since we started the first Café Church in Doddington. It has proved to be a welcome addition to the usual services at St Mary's with its relaxed style, combining worship with coffee and cake. We welcome both regular and occasional church members.

A special celebration event is to be held at Doddington Church Rooms on **Tuesday, 8th September at 1.30pm** and everyone is welcome to come and join us.

For more information
contact Jenny Holding
on 01354 740894 or
hjdjen@outlook.com



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Sunday	CLOSED
Bank Hols	10am-4pm

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Methodist Church

Sunday 13th September : 2.30pm : Rev Lorna Valentine

EVERYONE WELCOME

Monday: No events

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

Wednesday: Auction: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Thursday: No events

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

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

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



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Girlguiding

Guides have returned from a fantastic time away camping at Hautbois Fest, held near Norwich at Girlguiding Anglia's Headquarters.



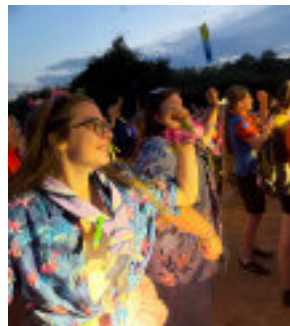
Girlguiding Hautbois Fest 2026 was a special weekend of adventure, friendship, learning, and unforgettable memories. The theme, Global Adventure, celebrated everything that makes guiding such a positive and inspiring movement. From teamwork and confidence building to creativity and outdoor discovery, the action-packed programme was designed to encourage every participant to challenge themselves, make new friends, and create lasting memories.

Our journey to Hautbois Fest started with everyone meeting at Manea train station. Here we joined up with Manea Guides. Everyone was very excited for the weekend and laden with a huge rucksack, we filled the platform! Once aboard we set off for Norwich.



Upon arrival at Hautbois, tents were put up and promptly moved into. Everyone then went off to explore the site, checking out the activities for the weekend. Friday evening's entertainment brought us live singers and bands.

Saturday morning started with some STEM activities including a mad science show and more exploring around the site. The afternoon brought more fun activities including paddle boarding, kayaking, tomahawk throwing and high ropes. The high ropes were the favourite and was a long wait but worth it! During the evening there were more live singers and party disco songs to dance along to.



Sunday was a more relaxed day; letting the guides take part in a few craft activities, some lovely work, glass engraving and bracelet making. The wellbeing area was just as popular with glitter tattoos, henna and hair accessories available

to all the girls, helping them to get festival ready for the evening of entertainment. Sunday evening finished with a fantastic laser light show filling the sky with colourful lights and patterns.

Monday morning arrived and it was time to strike camp and board the mini bus back to Norwich Station. Lots of tired faces but memories made and new experiences with Girlguiding that they'll hopefully remember for many years to come.

Rangers are returning to Doddington! We are starting a new group for 14 – 18 year olds in September. Rangers is your space, where you get together to have fun, learn more, give back, hang out, and just be you. It can also help you learn lots of new skills, add to your CV, build your confidence and change the lives of girls across the UK and the world.

We will also be hosting another Sip and Paint evening in September. This time we will be painting a harvest picture, so we look forward to seeing you at The Pavilion on Friday 25th September!

Please contact us on the email below for more details or register your interest on the Girlguiding website.

If you are interested in joining or volunteering with any of our units, or would like to find out more about us, we would love to hear from you. Rainbows are 4-7 years old, Brownies are 7-10 years old, Guides are 10-14 years and any volunteer can be aged 14 + (Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers are welcomed!).

**Please contact Abbey on abbeycater@hotmail.co.uk.
www.girlguiding.org.uk**

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The Annual Askham Christmas Fayre

We're looking for stall holders, food vendors and activity providers to join us at our annual Askham Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 21st November 2026, from 11am-4pm.

To book a stall, email activities@askhamvillagecommunity.com

Askham
A Village Community

The Family Holiday Conversation That Changes Everything

Summer has a wonderful way of bringing families together.

Children come home, grandchildren visit, and we often spend more time with the people we love than at any other time of the year.

Yet many families will discuss everything from holiday plans to football results while carefully avoiding conversations about future wishes, Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

In this month's article, I explore why some of the most important conversations in life often happen unexpectedly, and why a relaxed family gathering might provide the perfect opportunity to start one.

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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Celebration of Harvest, Flowers & Community

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Cost: **£20.00**

Profits to be split between Girlguiding Doddington and Celebration of Harvest, Flowers & Community

Friday
25th Sept
7.00pm



Doddington Horticultural Society

We were proud to present the 79th Annual Village Summer Show on Saturday 25th July in the heart of the village at the Benwick Road Recreation Ground and Pavilion.

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

Without the support of sponsors, advertisers, residents, local companies and organisations the Village Summer Show would not be possible. Thank you to our main sponsor **Agrimech** and to our Section Sponsors, **Megaplants, The Three Tuns, Askham Community Village, Chris Hamps, Vicky Gory, Sandra Stafford, Chris Billingham** and the **Hopkins Family**.

For the first time this year we offered the opportunity to become a "Friend of the Village Show 2026", and we were pleased with how many people signed up and also to the residents who made very generous donations, but wished to remain anonymous.

Thank you to the **Recreation Committee** for allowing us to hold the show on the field and use the pavilion, to **Doddington Carnival** committee for allowing us to use the fencing around the show ground, to **1st Doddington Scouts** and the **Church Rooms** for the loan of tables and **Doddington Christmas Lights** for the lights in the marquee. Thank you to **Askham Community Village** for the overflow car park, to the **Underwood Family** for all the hay bales and providing their long list of volunteers.

Thank you to all the Stall Holders and the food and beverage offers including the wonderful **Doddington WI** for all the cakes and teas served in the pavilion, and for their generous donation. Thank you to village historian, **David Edwards** for coming along and providing an insight to our past.

This year we had another display of amazing classic and treasured cars, and a performance area hosted by **Peter Leeson** – thank you to everyone who took part and to Peter for keeping things running on time.

There were a couple of last-minute changes, the scorching temperatures and the weather forecast for the day meant that **Marching Mutts** supported by **Triovet** cancelled the **Dog Show** on the morning of the show for the welfare of all the dogs. We are sure everyone understood and despite our disappointment they still attended to raise awareness and much needed funds.

We also had to cancel the **Creative Writing Competition** awards due to the organiser being unwell, but we certainly want to run it again next year. We will ensure all prize winners still receive their certificates.



Thank you to all the volunteers and helpers – particularly the people who organised the car park, the gates and sold draw tickets, you all did an amazing job and to **Ruth Hufton** for her calm management of the results table.

Thank you to all our **Judges** for making so many difficult decisions and finishing in time for us to prepare for the trophy winners. We had 95 exhibitors this year and 624 entries across 11 sections. The marquee looked amazing.

And a big thank you to **Marc and Grace** for managing the Bingo so well for us (it was a brilliant night) and to the **Recreation Committee** for allowing us to borrow their bingo machine. It made a big difference.

The Village Show's Future

Earlier this year we had to make some difficult decisions. Due to the increased cost of staging the show including the marquee, insurance, first aiders, trophy engraving etc. we started to charge entry fees for children and admission on the gate. With the help of some very generous residents who made donations to the show, our sponsors and this additional revenue the show was able to go ahead this year.

2027 should be our 80th Village Summer Show but the committee is desperately short of helpers.

We need more committee members and volunteers, especially on the Friday before and on show day. Unless we can find people to help us with the set up and taking down of the tables and chairs, the displays, hay bales, fencing etc. we probably won't be able to hold the show, certainly not in its current format.

If you value the event and the tradition of the village show, please do get in touch. We meet approximately once a month throughout the year for about an hour and a half and then more frequently in June and July.

We cannot stress strongly enough that **we are at a critical point, and the future of the show now depends on people coming forward** who can commit especially to some of the lifting and moving things around.

If you want to come along to a committee meeting to see what it's all about or you would like to chat things through before you volunteer, please email doddingtonsummershow@gmail.com or call/text us: Hilton Fisher (07757 730425) or Ruth Hopkins (07815 462796).

Thank you.

Congratulations to our Trophy Winners



Short Family Shield	Vegetable Section	Chris Savill
Dock Family Shield	Best Vegetable in show	Chris Savill
Mears Memorial Cup	Best Wonky Vegetable in Show	Julie Wheeler
C R Clarke Annual Memorial Cup	Fruit Section	Chris Savill
Don Hipkin Cup	Flower Section	Anna Holland
Watson Family Cup	Best Flower in show	Lynden Green
John Yorke Annual Memorial Cup	Vase of Sweet Peas	Lynden Green
Payne Family Shield	Hybrid Tea Rose	Anna Holland
Eric Mason Memorial Cup	Bowl of Roses	Helen Fosbueary
Bester Annual Memorial Cup	Fuchsia plant in pot	Anna Holland
Elmore Family Shield	Photography section	Sally Graham
Ellington / Barnford Challenge Cup	Adult Art section	Helen Fosbueary
Horne Guard Shield	Cookery & Preserves section	Jackie Newark
Mary Jackson Cup	Best in Cookery	Jackie Newark
Doddington WI Cup	Best Jar of Jam	Anthea Hart
Archer Shield	Handicrafts section	Vicky Gory
Emma Ellington Annual Memorial Cup	Best needlework article in show	Vicky Gory
Roma Wright Cup	Best knitted article in show	Erica Dowling
Green Family Cup	Top Girl - 4 years & under	Annie Fosbueary
Nikoy Robinson Cup	Best in section - 4 years & under	Annie Fosbueary
Welsh Family Annual Challenge Cup (Primrose Cup)	Top Girl - 5 - 7 years	Ellie Veal
Boyden Annual Family Challenge Cup	Top Boy - 5 - 7 years	Joshua Salter
Southon Family Annual Memorial Cup	Best in Section - 5-7 years	Ellie Veal
Future Stars Cup	Top Girl 8 - 10 years	Lucinda Coulson
Fenland Citizen Cup	Best in section - 8-10 years	Lucinda Coulson
Aubrey & Doris Nigus Cup	Top Girl 11-13 years	Rosie Fountain
Roger Lewis Shield	Top Boy 11 - 13 years	Charlie Winn
Hopkins Family Cup	Best in section 11-13 years	Rosie Fountain
Irene Short Memorial Cup	Best veg sculpture in children's sec	Rosie Constable
Bill & Olive Dickerson Shield	Adult with most points in show	Chris Savill
Emmett Family Shield	Child with most points in show	Rosie Fountain
Evelyn Hamps Memorial Trophy	Best Children's Section Recycled Article	Rosie Constable

Doddington Horticultural Society

It was a long time since I had been to the Village Show. As a pupil at the Lionel Walden school in the 1960s, we were all encouraged to enter every year, but after I left the school, I never entered again. However, after visiting in 2024, I went away thinking that I might like to have another go. Unfortunately my good intentions didn't last long and I thought no more about it.

I then saw an article in the Doddington Diary about the 2026 'Scone Off' and thought I would give that a try. Even though I wasn't very successful, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of entering as well as the Community atmosphere in the Village Hall at the afternoon tea. This was where I first saw the 2026 Show programme, and I started thinking about entering again.

I took the schedule home and carefully went through it, to see which categories I could enter. So after 60 years since last participating, I decided to go for it. Over the next few months, I baked, crafted, tended my garden and took photographs. At the end of July, the car was loaded, I delivered my efforts and registered for a number of different classes.

I am pleased to say that my efforts paid off and I was delighted with my success, I even won two trophies!

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and I would definitely recommend anyone to have a go - but maybe next time, I'll limit the number of classes I enter as I now need time to recuperate after this year's preparations!!



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Women's Institute



Members were told of the results of the Village Carnival and Village Horticultural Show. Thanks were given to those who had baked cakes, etc. and special thanks were given to Brenda MacKenzie and Margaret Neesom for their help at the Horticultural Show. Congratulations were given to Anthea Hart who won this year's WI Trophy for best jam and also Sally Graham who won a shield for her photography.



Information was given of various events happening in the Isle Federation. There is to be a meeting at Sally Shortland's home on to discuss next year's programme and competitions.

August's speaker was Dr. Thomas, a retired G.P. from March, who gave an interesting talk about Women in Medicine. He spoke of the difficulties women have had because women were not allowed to be doctors in this country. He talked about the famous female doctors of the past. Things are very different now and in 2025 for the first time ever there were more women than men, and it could be seen as a career where they can work part-time which fits in with their family lives. Dr. Thomas was thanked by Elaine Stratford.

Refreshments were served by Anthea Hart and Ann Bosworth.

The Competition was to make an article from empty blister packs. This was a very difficult task but a windmill and dinosaur, etc. were made. The winner was Mavis Gamsby.

Next month will have David Edwards speaking about The Doddington Workhouse and the competition will be for 4 decorated Fairy Cakes. The meeting will be on Thursday, 3rd September at 7.15pm held at the Pavilion, Benwick Road. Visitors are always welcome.

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



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Join us for a cuppa, a chat and the chance to connect with other parents who understand. We also offer information and signposting to services and support.

Join us at **Doddington Village Hall** from **10am - Noon** on **Tuesday 15th September, Tuesday 6th October, Tuesday 3rd November and Tuesday 1st December.**

No referral is needed – just come along.
www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/pinpoint-events/



Croquet

The hot weather has thinned our numbers a little lately, but we still have a small band of players who come to enjoy a game and a bit of friendly competition. There is always room for anyone who would like to join us.

The lawn, like everywhere at the moment, is brown and we just hope that rain one day will enable it to grow again.

With cooler weather forecast we will be returning to 4pm and anyone who would like to play will be welcome.

Contact us at croquet@fieldsendwater.co.uk





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Doddington Recreation Committee

Our next Prize Bingo will take place on Thursday 17th September. 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 very welcome.



The Pavilion is available to hire for children's parties, family celebrations, baby showers, meetings, classes and other events. Please contact us for availability and further information.

We are also looking for new volunteers to join our small and friendly committee. There are lots of different ways you can help, so there is sure to be something to suit everyone. This could include helping with cutting the grass and looking after the Recreation Ground, assisting with the administration involved in running the Pavilion, helping at fundraising events or coming up with ideas for future fundraising.

You don't need to have lots of spare time – even giving a little time when you can makes a real difference. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people and make new friends while helping to keep an important village facility running.

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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A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community

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

We have now entered the final stages of planning for our weekend of Celebrations, as all of the thinking and planning begins to take shape. We are absolutely delighted at the response from the groups and individuals in the village that have agreed to do arrangements, but we are equally pleased with the overall support from the people, who for different reasons, are unable to offer practical help this time.

We have two events planned for September where you can test your creative skills. The first is on **Friday 11th September**, 10am - 1pm at the Community Cafe, in the Church Room, when Sarah Hall will be demonstrating and helping us to make a Gentleman's Favour (see picture). 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. To help us have an idea of numbers, if you are interested in attending you can either email doddingtondiary@gmail.com or talk to someone at the Community Cafe.



The second event is a popular Sip and Paint, to be held on **Friday 25th September**, 7pm at the Recreation Pavilion, Benwick Road. For £15 (including refreshments), all necessary materials will be supplied for you to paint a harvest scene. Bring your own drink, and Karen will guide you through the process and hopefully the "artists" will allow us to show their work in the church over the Celebration weekend!

The tickets are still available for our "Celebration of Music" which will be held on **Saturday 3rd October**. We are pleased to be welcoming Upwood Ukuleles for an evening of music and singing. This local group play a wide range of music from over the decades, having lots of fun along the way. All of the money they raise is donated to MAGPAS and over the years they have donated over £65,000 and we are proud to be supporting them in their fundraising efforts. Tickets are £5 each which includes a glass of wine! You can get your tickets from anyone at the church, the Community Cafe or email doddingtondiary@gmail.com.



A Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community

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

Lots of people have been working hard preparing for this event, so we hope that you will support them by coming along to the church to admire their 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 and chat - we look forward to seeing you.



FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER

- 09:30am** The children of the Lionel Walden School will celebrate Harvest.
- 10:30am** **OPEN** for visitors - come and see the flowers and harvest displays. The Community Cafe relocates to the Church for one day only. Tea and coffee available all day. Light refreshments will be available from **NOON - 2.00pm**.
- 5:30pm** **CLOSED** as we prepare for the evening entertainment.
- 7:00pm** **THE STORY OF JOSEPH** brought to us by the Open the Book team and the children of Future Stars, Guides and Scouts.



SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER

- 09:30am** **OPEN** for visitors - come and see the flowers and harvest displays. Tea and coffee available all day.
- 11:30am** **DAVID EDWARDS** talks about The Church. Light refreshments will be available from **NOON - 2.00pm**.
- 3:30pm** **DAVID EDWARDS** talks about Former Rectors
- 5:30pm** **CLOSED** as we prepare for the evening entertainment.
- 7:00pm** **CELEBRATION OF MUSIC** with **UPWOOD UKULELES**



SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

- 10:30am** **HARVEST SERVICE**
- NOON** **OPEN** for visitors - come and see the flowers and harvest displays. Tea and coffee available all day.
- 3:30pm** **CLOSED**
- 4:00pm** **SONGS OF PRAISE**



Doddington Parish Councillor Vacancy

Co-option Opportunity



Following completion of the statutory vacancy process with the District Council, no election has been called. The Parish Council is therefore seeking to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor by co-option.

If you are passionate about Doddington, interested in serving your community and helping shape local decisions, we would love to hear from you.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for co-option as a Parish **Councillor** in England, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or over.
- Be a British, Commonwealth, Irish, or eligible EU citizen.
- Have met at least one of the following qualifications for the 12 months immediately prior to your application:
 - Be registered on the local electoral register for the parish.
 - Have owned or rented land or premises within the parish.
 - Have had your main place of work within the parish.
 - Have lived in the parish, or within three miles of its boundary.

Please note that applicants may nominate themselves, no proposer or seconder is required.

How to apply

If you wish to be considered, please send an email expressing your interest in becoming a Parish Councillor to the Parish Clerk or the Chair by 19:00 on Wednesday 16 September. In your email please include a brief introduction about yourself and confirm which eligibility criterion you meet.

The Clerk's email address is clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Chair's email address is chair.ruthhufton@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the role or the co-option process please get in touch, we are happy to answer any questions.

Abbey Barnes
Parish Clerk
 On behalf of Doddington Parish Council

Future Stars

To celebrate the end of another successful year of Future Stars, we enjoyed a bus trip to Milton Keynes to watch a professional production of Annie. It was a great show, that everyone, from the youngest children to Granny, could sing along to!



Future Stars is an inclusive theatre group where children of all abilities can build confidence, learn new skills, and have fun through drama, singing, and dance.

Each session is packed with drama games, musical theatre songs, and jazz dance, all leading towards exciting performances with costumes, lighting, and sound.



The group meets during the school term and from September we will be moving to the Village Hall, when we will be rehearsing for the Story of Joseph, at the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community on 2nd October.

Classes are led by Vicki, who trained at the London School of Musical Theatre and she has 19 years experience of performing and teaching children.

We meet on a Monday and there are two age groups: 4 - 6 years from 4.30 - 5.30pm and they are followed by 7 - 11 years from 5.30 - 7.30pm.

If you think your child would benefit from Future Stars come along and give it a try from 7th September, contact Vicki on 07906 919145 or book via messenger.



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1st Doddington Scout Group

By the time you read this, the summer break will soon be over, how fast did that go! We hope you have been enjoying the time with your families recharging your batteries, whether that be at home or venturing further afield.

Although August is normally a quieter month, as we do not have our weekly meetings, some of our young people have still been able to get together with their friends to join other Groups across the County. Our Beavers and Cubs and a number of our adult volunteers have been out on the water at Paxton Lakes in boats, on rafts, and trying out paddle boarding. They all came back saying what a fantastic time they had, with some of the leaders asking how they can obtain their permits to give us even more flexibility to offer these opportunities to all our young people, as they had enjoyed it so much. Scouting is not just for the young people, adults can have fun too!

Our long awaited trip to Holland took place at the end of August, with some travelling by plane and others by coach. I can't wait to tell you all about the adventures they had, so please keep an eye out for next month's edition.

As you can imagine planning has already started for the Autumn term, the volunteers from each section have been getting together to devise the activities for their members, including our regular meetings, camping opportunities and involvement in community events.

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



Seeking adult volunteers to join our team

Scouts is where young people make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills.

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

Contact us to find out more about how Young People aged 4 - 18 can join.

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

1st Doddington Scout Group

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Christmas Lights



The children will soon be returning to school and before we know it the nights will be drawing in and it won't just be the Christmas Lights Committee thinking about Christmas!

We have already had several lucky winners in our 10 week Summer Draw and their tickets have been returned to Santa's sack, so they could possibly be drawn again. The final draw, the big one, will be on 2nd October 2026.

We are very excited to announce that due to an overwhelming response to our call for stallholders for our Christmas Craft Fair we have had to book the Church Rooms as well as the Methodist Hall and Village Hall to accommodate the huge number of new and exciting vendors. We will pass on further details as we approach the date.

We have been busy fixing lights and silhouettes and making plans for the next display and Switch On event. This year we were deeply saddened by the passing of our former chairman, David Curtis. David was devoted to Doddington Christmas Lights, spending countless hours, alongside his dedicated team, building much of the infrastructure that still supports our display today. His hard work and passion laid the foundations for the displays to be built on long into the future.

We are currently creating a special tribute within this year's display to honour David's commitment, and to recognise everyone who supported the project during his tenure. It is our way of ensuring his contribution continues to shine across the village he cared so much about.

Watch this space as we approach this year's festive season.

Meanwhile, we are also pleased to be working on our display for the Celebration of Harvest, Flowers and Community in the church in October. We look forward to seeing you there.

To contact Doddington Christmas Lights:
Email: doddingtonchristmaslights@btinternet.com
Phone or text: 07935282070 Facebook: Doddington Xmas Lights

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3 Love, Sex and other themes in Shakespeare

Tutor Lindsay Furland
5-week course: January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3 2027

4 Eye of the Beholder – 2000 Years of Art

Tutor Gies Hartley
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Doddington 100 Years Ago : September 1926

The Hermitage, Benwick Road, was offered for sale and was purchased by a London property development company. They converted the main house into two and also converted the coach house to a third property which they named Fountain Court. All three properties were then rented out for the next 20 years.

Doddington 80 Years Ago : September 1946

A design for the war memorials plaques to be placed inside the Church and Methodist Chapel was agreed by the War Memorial committee. The plaques would be of Clipsham stone with statuary marble centres on which an inscription and the names of the four men from the village who died would be engraved. The names would also be added to the base of the churchyard memorial. The work was to be completed by Remembrance Sunday. *[The story of why the church plaque ended up with a different design will unfold over the coming months].*

The Hospital Sunday parade went ahead after a church service at which the Wisbech Male Choral Society gave a recital and Major Legge-Bourke MP gave a very inspiring sermon. The parade was led by the March Railway Silver Band and floats were entered by the Hospital Sunday committee, the village Red Cross detachment, the Women's Institute, the British Legion and Doddington United FC. After parading the village, the floats continued to the County Hospital where the Wisbech men gave another recital. The evening concluded with a concert by the March Railway Band in the British Legion Hall. It was hoped that the final total collected would exceed the £150 raised the previous year.

Efforts were to be made to form a Women's branch of the British Legion in the village.

On the 20th September a violent storm swept through the village the worst for many years, torrential rain fell for several hours and some large trees were brought down including one across Wimblington Road, another in the churchyard and a third opposite the Hermitage in Benwick Road.

Dials on the clock tower had been broken by stones thrown at them for the second time in recent months. The culprit had not been identified.

Doddington 50 Years Ago : September 1976

Nothing of particular interest noted!

To be continued....David Edwards

100th Club

The Committee would like to give massive thanks to The Three Tuns, Doddington Newsagents and all the club members who generously donated bottles for the stall at the Village Summer Show. As a result, we raised £140 for the Club funds.

At the August meeting, held at the Pavilion, we welcomed the team from Gorefield Alpacas. All the members had the opportunity to meet and feed the 5 Alpacas that arrived in style. Krystal and Gina gave a very interesting, humorous and enlightening talk on the life cycle of Alpacas and of the superb quality of their wool. We all learnt that alpacas are a man-created animal, and how efficient they are in converting food to energy only needing to consume 3% of their body weight each day. Perhaps a few of us would do well to remember this for our own benefit!



The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17th September at the Pavilion starting at 2pm and will feature a talk titled 'The Fens and Fenmen' given by Peter Tatum.

Everybody Welcome. Refreshments and a raffle will follow the talk.



For further details please contact:
Heather Kilby (Treasurer 07870 483195
email: Doddington100thClub@outlook.com
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Parish Council Report

Vacancy for a co-opted Parish Councillor

First of all, we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor by co-option. If you are passionate about Doddington, want to support the community and help make local decisions this is a fantastic opportunity. For full details please see the advertisement on page 24

Community Living Room

The Community Living Room continues to go from strength to strength. Wi-Fi has now been installed in the Church Rooms. Attendance has been particularly busy over the past month and the Fenland District Council's Community Safety Team will soon be visiting alongside the local Police Community Support Officer.

Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up

Preparations are underway for a new village Nature Recovery initiative. From September, the Parish Council hopes to bring together local organisations and community representatives to develop projects that enhance wildlife and green spaces throughout the village, please see the separate article on opposite page.

Highways and Village Issues

The Council continues to press for improvements to local roads and footpaths. Members agreed to report the developing dip in the road surface on Primrose Hill to Cambridgeshire Highways and will also request action to clear overgrown vegetation along Church Lane where footpaths have become obstructed.

Abbey Recreation Ground

The Council has signed an agreement with Benwick Athletic Football Club for the use of one football pitch and the pavilion throughout the 2026–27 season, helping to make full use of the village's recreational facilities.

Village Maintenance

The new Benwick Road bus shelter is now complete, including the installation of its noticeboard. Members also discussed relocating the planned telephone box book exchange, as the original location proved unsuitable, and alternative sites are now being considered.

The Parish Council's website, www.doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk is where you will find agendas for upcoming meetings, minutes from previous meetings and other useful information. There is also a contact page for 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



Have Your Say on Nature in Doddington?

Would you like to see more wildflowers, trees, birds and butterflies in Doddington? More welcoming green spaces for people to enjoy? More opportunities for the community to come together outdoors?

Doddington has been selected to take part in an exciting county-wide project to create a Community Nature Recovery Plan. This is a chance for local residents to decide what priorities should be included and help shape future projects in the village.

Ideas could include creating wildflower areas, planting trees, improving habitats for wildlife, enhancing green spaces, developing community gardens, or finding new ways to connect people with nature. The plan will be shaped by local people and the places that matter most to them.



No expertise is needed. Whether you enjoy gardening, walking, spending time outdoors with your family, or simply want to help make Doddington an even better place to live, we'd love to hear your ideas.

Interested?

Simply email "Nature Recovery" to clerk@doddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk to register your interest and receive details of the next steps.

This is an opportunity for the community to create a shared vision for nature in Doddington and help shape projects that could benefit both wildlife and residents for years to come.

Short Mat Bowls Club

The club recently welcomed teams from across Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex as we hosted the annual Chloe Charity Shield at the Village Hall. Again, the day proved to be a highlight of the summer bowls calendar, as the teams delivered excellent bowls in a friendly but determined atmosphere, showcasing the sport at its best. The overall winners of the shield this year were R Bonello, J Thorpe and B Chapman.

This year's chosen charity was EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospice). Thanks to entry fees, donations, raffles, and the generosity of everyone who attended, the club proudly raised £525 to support their vital work for children, young people, and families across the region. The club extends a heartfelt thank you to all players, supporters, volunteers, and visitors who helped make the event such a success.

In August we hosted a vibrant Short Mat Bowls Open Day at the Village Hall. The event formed part of Bowls' Big Summer, a nationwide initiative encouraging people of all ages to try the sport and discover the fun, friendly atmosphere bowls clubs offer.

Across the four-hour session, club members guided visitors through the basics, offered coaching tips, and helped everyone enjoy their taste of Short Mat Bowls. It was a great atmosphere throughout the session. It was a brilliant turnout and the positive response from curious locals with several attendees expressing an interest in returning for club nights, taster sessions, and future events.

A representative from the Bowls Development Alliance attended and commented on the Open day...

"The whole club was incredibly welcoming and friendly, creating a fantastic atmosphere for everyone who came along. It's a brilliant example of how a Bowls Big Weekend event can bring people together, introduce new people to bowls and showcase what a welcoming sport it is."

We would encourage anyone who missed the Open Day to get in touch and come along to a session. Bowls remains one of the most inclusive sports in the region, offering exercise, social connection, and plenty of competition.

Contact Rob on 07837601468 or rob@doddingtonsmbc.co.uk.



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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, the reader of the September Doddington Diary, for only £7.50 a piece. 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
Or by going to <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/TAS8L34WB9SGA> or scanning the attached QR code.




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

Last months shop saw its first ever "Bargain Trolley" event, where from 12 to 12.30 only, shoppers filled one of our wheely trolleys for just £3! Another great reason to come visit is our cafe, with lovely homemade bakes just 80p each.

August's Thrift shop raised a healthy total of £630 (£160 from cafe sales). Thanks to our new baker Janet and thanks too to March House Children's home for generously donating the sausage rolls. Funds raised go to the upkeep of the Church Rooms and to MAGPAS, our chosen charity for 2026. Of course the biggest and warmest of thanks goes to our customers, donators and our happy volunteers who make this such a lovely village event each month.

Look out for our creative recycling display in the October Church Flower Festival!

Our next shop will be 3rd of September 9am to 12 noon with the bargain Trolley-dolly dash from 12 to 12.30pm. Fresh bacon rolls, just £2!

Dates for 2026: 1/10, 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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