

Doynton Parish Pump

The annual wassail at **Summers Field community orchard** on January 6th was a joyous – and noisy – occasion, guaranteed to scare away the evil spirits and ensure a good apple harvest. On January 19th, Sally Pattison of S Glos Council led a workshop on tree pruning, with an opportunity for hands-on practice in the orchard and plentiful supplies of coffee and delicious cake. We all learnt so much from Sally, and look forward to the next workshop when we can learn something new.

Doynton Hard Half Marathon is on Sunday February 2nd, starting at 11.00 a.m. from the playing field – 600 runners expected this year! That's a lot of cake, but our villagers are rising to the challenge, selling cakes, savouries and tea/coffee in aid of Bath Welcomes Refugees and Medical Detection Dogs. Volunteers needed to help on the day and make cakes etc. (please label your cake tin clearly) – contact Jenny Bartram, tel. 07468 413228. If you can, please also bring a can or packet to donate to N Bristol and S Glos Foodbank. The event is impeccably organized, as always, but if you have any questions or concerns, email dhhm [at] emersonsgreenrunningclub.co.uk.

Doynton village market will take place in the village hall on Saturdays February 1st and 15th and March 1st and 15th (NB no market March 29th). Gluten-free products available, also apple juice, fresh vegetables and eggs. Our nimble-fingered crafters offer a varied selection of cards and pictures, plus home-made collectable soft figures and sewn and knitted products. As always, please order by phone (07711 670704, **note new number**), message or WhatsApp, before midday on the Wednesday before the market.

The **Memory Café at Doynton** will meet on Thursday February 6th, 2.00–4.00 p.m., in the village hall. Our monthly get-together is free to attend and anyone with dementia or memory loss, with their family member or carer, is very welcome. For more information, see Facebook “The Memory Cafe at Doynton”, email mcdoynton [at] gmail.com or tel. 07817 311001.

In January, **Doynton and Wick WI** met at Wick Chapel for a fascinating evening of stories and “Songs from the Shows” with Ben Stock. Ben, who has just hung up his corsets after a season as a pantomime dame in Richmond, is the son of one of our members and performed on the Chapel stage many times as a child. On February 12th (7.30 p.m.), back in Doynton village hall, the

speaker will be Ian Caskie on “The SS Great Britain”. The competition is “a nautical poem”. All welcome.

Warm Wednesdays: 10.30 a.m.–12 noon in the village hall, for tea/coffee, sweet treats and a good gossip! On February 12th, a representative of Age Concern will be in attendance to offer advice, and on February 26th we will welcome a representative of Trading Standards.

Doynton village hall: a noise limiter has been installed, which we hope will lessen the noise nuisance for those living nearby. The **annual general meeting** will take place in the hall on Wednesday February 19th (7.30 p.m.) – members of the public are warmly invited to attend.

Seed swap and plant sale: Saturday March 8th (10.00 a.m.–12 noon) in the village hall, focusing on seed from wildflowers and garden plants that attract wildlife. The knife sharpener will be there. We aim to have, as in previous years, an area of all things gardening that people can help themselves to (and hopefully leave a donation for a charitable cause). So if you would like to rehome any tools, garden equipment, garden ornaments, large ceramic or plastic pots, gardening books/magazines, bird tables, bird houses or feeders, hanging baskets, etc. (everything in good working order), please bring on the day or contact Jane Girling to arrange collection (07920 258844).

Playing field quiz: Saturday March 29th, in the village hall, doors open at 7.30 p.m. for a prompt start at 8.00 p.m. Tickets £20 for teams of four people or £5 single – pay on entry, cash only please. Pay bar, cash or card. Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated – please bring on the night. Proceeds go for the upkeep of the playing field. Contact Jane Stewart: johnjane252 [at] gmail.com or tel. 0117 937 3299.

Advance notice of a **swing band music evening** with the Wiltshire Police Band on Saturday April 5th (7.30 p.m.) at Holy Trinity Church. Sat 5-04-25 19.30 A fun music evening with the Wiltshire Police Band. For details see <https://www.doyntonvillage.org/uploads/images/events/Karens%20concert.jpg>.

Bulb planting: look out for the new spring flowers along the entrance roads to the village over the coming months. Many thanks to those who worked so hard to plant them last autumn.

Post Office in the village hall: every Thursday 9.30–10.30 a.m. for standard post office services. Order groceries by 6.00 p.m. Wednesday for collection (Oldland Common Post Office and Store, tel. 932 3159).