

Doynton Parish Pump – Happy Christmas!

Christmas in Doynton: Sunday December 18th, 6.30 p.m.: carols by candlelight in Holy Trinity Church. Please bring a candle in a suitable holder.

Christmas Eve, 6.30 p.m.: meet to sing carols at the Cross House Inn, then to church for a short, family-friendly service, mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas card deliveries: for the 10th year running, there will be a free Christmas card delivery service in the village. Post your cards in the box in the church porch from December 1st onwards and they will be delivered on or shortly after December 21st – cards for Doynton village only, please, and remember to add surname and full address.

Doynton Village Market: Doynton featured on a local radio 'Where am I?' competition recently, with one clue being "they have a market there on the first and third Saturday of the month". Maybe that is why so many people visited us on the first Saturday of November, but we had a lovely, busy time that morning, so if you are reading this, thank you and please come again! As we lead into Christmas, our books are open for meat orders and any other produce you may like to purchase (email: crewmaud[at]btinternet.com). December markets are the 3rd and 17th. Pick up your Xmas meat on Saturday 24th. Hopefully you are reading this before our first December market, as we welcome Wick Brownies once again with their stall. So as the year closes, all the market producers and helpers say a BIG THANK YOU for all your support throughout 2022, and wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. See you again on January 7th 2023!

Doynton apple juice for sale: 100% pure, pressed, delicious apple juice made from Doynton apples. Pasteurised, best before October 2023. All proceeds to Summers Field community orchard. £3.50/bottle or £10 for three bottles. Ideal as a gift. Contact: Corinda 07587 175474 or Paul 07773 327028

Event reports: the **Summers Field autumn feast** and disco in September raised almost £1000 for our community orchard. Many thanks to all those who helped with the organization and to those who came along and supported us. The **charity auction** held in September was a successful occasion that raised over £5900, to be shared equally between our two nominated charities, Freedom from Torture and Bath Welcomes Refugees. It was a lively evening,

but we hope that the underlying purpose – to raise awareness of the important work of the two charities to support people displaced and damaged by conflict abroad – was not lost. We give grateful thanks to those people who provided the lots and to the generous – and sometimes competitive – bidders.

Doynton and Wick WI: At the November AGM, Tina Holbrook was re-elected as President for the coming year, and Jan Randall joined the committee. The social time was great fun, as members made marzipan fruits and folded old unwanted paperback books into origami Christmas trees. The next meeting on December 14th will be the annual Christmas meal, in the village hall, with entertainment from the Piple Bottom Boys. Please bring a wrapped Secret Santa present, value £5, but keep any gifts or donations for Julian House hostel until January, when we have a speaker from the charity. And don't forget the Avon Federation of WIs carol service (St Thomas à Becket, Pucklechurch, December 5th at 7 p.m.).

The fundraising **quiz night** in aid of the Doynton Playing Field was held at the Village Hall on Saturday November 12th. The evening was fairly well attended but more teams will be welcome for the Spring Quiz–watch this space! The event raised £279– an excellent effort given the low attendance.

A third **seed swap** event is planned for March 11th 2023, including seeds, seedlings, bulbs, tubers, flowers, herbs, etc. for sale. Please save your seeds and pot up spare plants and seedlings over the next few months. For instructions, see <http://www.doyntonvillage.org/events/SeedSwap.html>.

A win-win new year's resolution that helps the environment: **let the grass grow under your feet!** It's not only trees that store carbon – every green plant does too – even some organisms, like lichen, that don't look green. If everyone reduced the frequency of grass cutting, it would increase the carbon store, save time and save mower fuel consumption. If moss were allowed to flourish, the carbon store would be further increased, and if daisies and dandelions grew, insect biodiversity would benefit; if fewer herbicides were used, there would be less toxic run-off into the rivers. What's not to like?

The **Doynton Hard Half Marathon** will take place in and around the village on February 5th 2023. Marshalls, cake bakers and tea makers, please volunteer at dhhm[at]emersonsgreenrunningclub.co.uk. [#DryMudWetMudCowMud](https://twitter.com/DryMudWetMudCowMud)