

Doynton Parish Pump

Our new **Doynton Community Café**: come and share our “Warm Wednesdays” at the village hall, 10.00 a.m.–12 noon. Please join us for free tea, coffee and biscuits. Bring your work, your knitting or just yourself!

The **Doynton Hard Half Marathon** will take place in and around the village on February 5th. (*Let's hope it's muddy enough. Ed.*) As usual, volunteers from the village will be selling tea/coffee and cakes on the playing field in aid of Bath Welcomes Refugees. Donations of cakes very welcome – please bring them to the recreation ground from 09.00 a.m. or contact Jenny Bartram on 07468 413228 to arrange collection.

A third **seed swap** event is planned for March 11th, 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>.

Shortly after dark, one evening in early January, a group of villagers gathered in **Summers Field community orchard** for the ancient tradition of wassailing. Some wore lights in their hair, others carried percussion instruments, and wassail songs were sung. The aim was to drive evil spirits from the orchard and to assure a bountiful harvest. Time will tell whether their efforts were successful! Have you walked through Summers Field community orchard recently? If so, you may have noticed the Chat Bench adjacent to the allotments. Try it out, and see if anyone stops to talk to you!

Doynton Village Market: Happy New Year to all our customers! We had a really great end to 2022: both December markets were well attended, with Wick Brownies joining us at the first one. They made a goodly sum, and we were so taken by a handmade sign saying they had donated to Bristol Children's Hospital following the 2021 markets that we added to their takings. It was a joy to host them, and well done to the young ones and the leaders for all of their dedication, time and hard work. January's market was a bit smaller, but well supported and pleasant. A nice way to see in the new year and greet our customers, we as producers enjoy the markets and welcoming everyone in, and are very much looking forward to seeing you all throughout 2023.

Friends of Doynton Church – a big thank you!

Pauline Blacker writes: In 1958, Friends of Doynton Church was formed to "encourage the widest possible spread in help to the Church by personal service and financial gifts". I am delighted to announce that, following the joint Harvest/ Friends' Service on September 25th 2022, £5316 was donated, including Gift Aid. Also, special thanks to Revd. Peter Hallett for conducting the service. Many thanks to everyone for their generosity and continued support. It is greatly appreciated – as much now, as it was 65 years ago.

Doynton and Wick WI: in a change from the published programme, members listened in ghoulish fascination to the details of another real-life crime from a local resident who was closely involved in the investigation. Rob Jones, a now-retired CID detective, worked for months to solve the disappearance of Shirley Banks in Bristol in 1987. Suspicion soon fell on John Cannan but, although he was jailed for life for another murder, Cannan never admitted to Shirley's murder or that of another high-profile disappeared person, estate agent Suzy Lamplugh. Next month's meeting will feature a talk on the work of the Dogs' Trust by Andrew Upton. The competition is “a photograph of a dog”. All welcome at Doynton village hall on Wednesday February 8th, 7.30 p.m.

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

Dates for your diary

Saturdays February 4th and 18th, 10.00–11.00a.m.: Doynton Village Market in the village hall.

Monday March 20th, 12.30–2.00 p.m. Soup and Delicious Desserts is back in the village hall. Proceeds in aid of Bath Welcomes Refugees.

Tuesday March 21st, 7.30 p.m.: Friends of Summers Field AGM in the village hall. All welcome.

Saturday April 1st, 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.: quiz evening in aid of Doynton Playing Field. Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated – please bring on the night. Book your table from Jane Stewart (tel. 937 3299) or Martin James (937 2287).