



## **Dingley Village Pump June 2026**

**Ed.** The past few days on the village WhatsApp site have been a bit preoccupied with our addresses. One point of irritation is concerned with wrongly delivered parcels and photographs of unidentifiable doorsteps. Linked with this is the message from the courier giving a spurious reason for non-delivery, usually telling you that you were out when you know you had waited in all day. None usually as bad as one that a Canadian cousin told me about; 'delivery impossible, bear outside door'.

Looking forward to good things to come, a great variety of entertainment in the village hall, right through to Autumn. Meanwhile, have a great summer.

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## Village Hall

### Forthcoming events

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June                      Open Gardens**

Promises to be another great show of gardens, alongside teas and cakes. Plans are well underway but we could still do with a couple more gardens and also volunteers for teas, parking, etc. Please let Tony (07538 678030) know if you can help with any of those.



#### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July                      Village BBQ and Craft Display**



Remember the stunning display of art and craft in the village hall at last year's barbecue. We were all impressed by the amount of talent in our small village, and we intend to do it again. Dingley's Summer Exhibition!

#### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August                      Village Walk**

#### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September                      Opera Evening**

Something different. Fizz, canapes and musical theatre on the big screen. If you love opera, you'll love this. If you don't, this is the best opportunity to change your mind. How? The show is Gianni Schicchi. It's Puccini, so lovely **tuneful** music. It has tunes everyone knows. It's **slapstick funny**. It has sweet **romance** and warring families. It has **subtitles** so no struggle with the Italian libretto. It has a **surprise** twist in the tail. **IT'S SHORT!** Only lasts an hour, so give it a go – see you on the 4<sup>th</sup> September!



#### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October                      Village Quiz – save the date**

**Look out for the notices.**

## Escape the Village Hall?

Looking for a way to escape the real world and find some excitement, early April saw a Village Hall evening with a difference, with a games night where every element was designed to feel authentic (with a very professional pack of information and on-line content) and sufficiently immersive to keep everyone occupied for at least a couple of hours. We had two intrepid teams battle it out to work through unique puzzles and answer challenging questions in our first Escape Room evening, with each team facing an interactive online finale. And of course beer and wine helped loosen up the lateral thought processes!

One team was focused on the challenges presented by global warming in the arctic where renowned scientist, Dr Carter had vanished after shadowy forces threatened her groundbreaking research into climate anomalies. Did she get found?

The other team rose to the challenge of the high-stakes “Duel of the Darts”, where amateurs and professionals alike were competing for the ultimate prize with levels of skulduggery surrounding the competition. Did Leo, the lovable underdog, really win big and fairly?

Who won and did it take them a couple of hours? Well, it didn't really matter who won - and it did in fact take at least 3 hours to find the winning team – what really mattered was they all enjoyed a very different Village Hall evening with a great team-working experience, lots of healthy interactions and debating and best of all .... the feedback and subsequent requests for more mean we will run another session at a later date.

## Where do we live?

That is the question that has cropped up on WhatsApp; ‘Where do we live, Northants or Leicestershire?’ Truth is we are borderers, either or both. We are unidentifiable. One thing about being on the border of Northamptonshire surprised me when I thought about it. Northamptonshire shares a border with eight other English counties. Can you name them without looking them up? If we lived in certain specific areas we could be known by a regional nickname, Geordie or Scouser or Brummie or Cockney for example. Actually you only need to have been born one of those; it stays with you for life, wherever you migrate. Can we invent a name for us in Dingley to identify us? Answers on a postcard.

Looking a bit wider than the name of whichever county we inhabit, we have a fairly boring name for the region. East Midlands, what's that? Okay it's in the middle and it's east of the equally boring West Midlands. For a while I tried to glamorise it a bit, if asked, by pronouncing it in a Tolkienesque manner, so not Eastmdlnds but East Mid Lands. But as we aren't elves or hobbits it sounds a bit daft. My family who live in France are close to the border between 24 and 17, even more useless, unless you know that house prices in 24 are about 30% higher than in 17. Same pretty villages, same glorious countryside, just name snobbery. Dordogne or Charente.

## Taking Care of our Village

In March the wonderful team of volunteers worked hard at clearing the village of litter. It is quite appalling to see just how much rubbish can accumulate when selfish passers-by decide to fling it out of their car windows.



### **Village Communication**

There is a Village WhatsApp group and also a Village email distribution group. If you'd like to join either or both; for the email group send an email to [dingleyvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:dingleyvillagenews@gmail.com), and for the WhatsApp group, please message Mark on 07849 669754.

### **Village Hall Committee**

We are always seeking new members to join the Village Hall Committee – to bring new ideas and help run events. It is not a great commitment – you can contribute as little of your time as you can afford. If you'd like to join, please contact Jo on 07771 842456.

### **Calling all Artists and Craftspeople!**

See that mention above about the Art and Craft Show. Get busy; your talent will be discovered. No false modesty allowed.  
We will be in touch!

## **Sharing Things We Enjoy**

### **Shoulder of Mutton - Foxton**

We visited the Shoulder of Mutton in Foxton after a friend's recommendation, and it proved a fair call. It was quieter mid-week, but the atmosphere was welcoming and the service attentive without ever feeling intrusive. The team were friendly, hospitable, and happy to chat once the rush had passed.

There's a simple range of well-kept beers and an appropriately sized menu for a village pub. We both started with the trio of oak-smoked salmon, smoked mackerel & prawns, which was fresh, well balanced, and a generous portion. For mains we had a steak and the gammon steak — both hearty plates, to the point that we couldn't manage a pudding, despite the desserts sounding very tempting.

Prices were exactly what you'd expect for a solid pub supper, and the overall experience made it clear the place deserves local support. A friendly, reliable village pub doing things properly.

## **Book Reviews**

### **Ted, A Pawtobiography**

This is a fun little book told from Ted's point of view about how he ended up on the TV programme *Gone Fishing* and what it's like working with Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse. The writing is light and easy, and there are some genuinely funny moments — including finally finding out why Ted is always asking if anyone has seen his briefcase.

It's also the right length. The joke behind the whole idea lasts just long enough before it would start to feel stretched.

A quick, cheerful read for fans of the show — even more poignant following Ted's recent death.

## **Outings – two exhibitions at the British Museum, London**

### **Hawai'i: A Kingdom Crossing Oceans**

A really interesting exhibition, and pleasantly shorter so it never felt crowded. The story of the Hawaiian king sending his son to Britain for help is powerful — especially knowing that after the long sea voyage and a warm welcome in London, both he and his wife died of measles. The feather cloaks and hats are stunning up close, full of colour and incredible craftsmanship. A compact but very moving exhibition.

### **Samurai**

A fascinating look at the long history of the Samurai, with some truly beautiful armour, weapons and objects on display. There's a lot to take in as it's not just about the warriors but the whole way of life for centuries, and the exhibition is clearly very popular — which means it gets busy, and not everyone seems to understand the simple idea of waiting their turn to look at things. Still, the quality of the pieces makes it worth the patience.

## Church Notes

Thank you to everyone who attended 'Our Church Needs You' session in the Village Hall. It was great to hear your views and take on board the many ideas. We are keen to work with the village on an annual fundraiser and will continue to run our termly community events – Summer tea & Pimm's (26<sup>th</sup> July) , Harvest lunch, Christingle and Easter tea/ hot cross buns.

As we move into spring/ summer we will hold all our services in the church starting at 10am, Communion (2nd Sunday) and Thought for the day discussion (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). All will be followed by refreshments. I will continue to send a WhatsApp and email out to the village prior to each service.

**All are welcome.**

### **Services/ Events:**

- 24<sup>th</sup> May 10am – Christening, family service followed by refreshments.
- **14<sup>th</sup> June 10am – Holy Communion followed by refreshments**
- 28<sup>th</sup> June 10am – Thought for the day discussion followed by refreshments
- **12<sup>th</sup> July 10am – Holy Communion followed by refreshments**
- 26<sup>th</sup> July 10am – Thought for the day discussion followed by refreshments
- **26<sup>th</sup> July 3pm to 5pm – Tea, Pimm's and Scones next to the church**
- **9<sup>th</sup> August 10am – Holy Communion followed by refreshments**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August 10am – Thought for the day discussion followed by refreshments

Lord, bless our family and community with a summer filled with safety, joy and love.

Church Warden - Jamie Robertson Tel: 07712485780  
Parish Safeguarding – Anne Knight Tel: 07504680248

Jamie Robertson  
07712485780

## **Sir John Norwich Charity.**

At one time the villages of Dingley and Brampton Ash had half a dozen charities between them, mostly very small and perhaps a little obscure. In the 1960's the Charity Commission proposed that these could be rolled up together to make one more easily administered Charity. The largest of the group was the Sir John Norwich Charity.

Sir John Norwich was Baronet of Brampton Ash, and stood as a member of parliament for Northampton and Northamptonshire between 1654 - 1660. He founded his charity in 1647 to help the "poor of the parish".

In recent years the trustees had been the rector and the churchwardens of the two communities , which ensured representation from both villages. Currently they are the Revd. Hannah Jeffrey, Jamie Robertson, Sarah Ashman, Mayumi Forsberg, Mary Cowley, and Richard Knight.

*The Sir John Norwich Charity is pleased to be able to offer some help with expenses to residents of the two villages who are entering into further education or apprenticeships. Please ask any of the trustees, or email [richardknyght@hotmail.com](mailto:richardknyght@hotmail.com) or text him on 07866848242. we may be able to help.*

## **Ode to the Dingley Dog-Walkers (the Naughty Ones)**

In Dingley Woods the bluebells glow,  
A lovely, peaceful, purple show—  
Yet some folks come with dog in tow  
And leave... well... gifts we didn't order.

Some drop the mess upon the track,  
Some bag it up—then lob it back.  
A plastic bauble in the bracken:  
Truly, peak woodland disorder.

Children play here, climbing trees,  
Breathing in the country breeze—  
Not hoping for a lucky squeeze  
Of something warm and squelchy.

So here's a thought, you dog-owning crew:  
If your pooch makes a parcel, the parcel's for you.  
Pick it up, take it home—yes, that's what you do.  
Anything else is just... well... smelly and selfish and belchy.



***Claude 2026***

## **Village Contacts**

### **Dingley Parish Council**

Justina Medwell – Parish Clerk - [clerk@dingley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dingley-pc.gov.uk)

Steve Dudson – acting chair - [steve.dudson@gmail.com](mailto:steve.dudson@gmail.com)

Councillors, Roger Read, Rebecca Winship, Elaine Lomer-Wood, Laura Jones.

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Anne Knight 07504 680248

### **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

Julie Archer

[juliearcher81@gmail.com](mailto:juliearcher81@gmail.com)

### **Dingley Parish Church**

Jamie Robertson

Churchwarden/Treasurer

01858 535573

### **Dingley Village Hall Committee**

Chair - Jolyon Ingham – 01858 535300, [jolyon.ingham@talk21.com](mailto:jolyon.ingham@talk21.com)

Hall Bookings – Tony Lucas 01858 535201, [tonylucas@aol.com](mailto:tonylucas@aol.com)

Treasurer – David Adderley, [15consulting@btconnect.com](mailto:15consulting@btconnect.com)

Trustee – Jamie Robertson, [robertsondingley@btinternet.com](mailto:robertsondingley@btinternet.com)

Roger Read

Elaine Whitesides

Jennifer Clegg

Peppy Ulyett

Anna Fitzpatrick

David Plimsoll

Gary Marsden

## **Dingley Village Pump**

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Next issue Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, submissions by Aug 1<sup>st</sup> please