

TEN VILLAGENews

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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DIGITAL ISSUE 2

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Harness Maker
Holbeck House c1905

BELOW RIGHT
A frosty Coddenham sunrise

OVERLEAF TOP
Alder Carr flooding Jan 2021

OVERLEAF BOTTOM
The Bakers Shop
Mr and Mrs Harfitt and
their daughter c1958

Back Cover
Shrubland Milk Lorry



We have put this version together with the kind permission of Andrea Turner and Tim Thomas of **Ten Village News**.

Thank you to all contributors. We welcome more, plus your feedback and comments through www.coddenham-parish.uk

Other **Ten Village News** stories at stonhamaspal.co.uk

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Other photography
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Welcome to the Coddenham pages of the **TEN VILLAGE NEWS**

The more familiar printed copy cannot be produced and distributed at the moment because of COVID19 Lockdown requirements.

However, your Coddenham Parish Community website can temporarily provide a another special edition from your favorite local contributors. We have also offered to include editions from our fellow nine villages or provide links to their websites, until such time Andrea and the 10VN team can return to printing again.

Thank you
The Editors

The Coddenham Pages - Ten Village News

NATURE NOTES

A short local walk during lockdown

By Brenda Hudson



Inspired by some glowing yellow Winter Aconites on a bank near our house and news of a primrose in flower in a garden in School road, I set off on the 4th of January for my permitted exercise without much hope of any other botanical treats. The walk took me from Rectory road on the path towards Broom hill. The first treat was the sight of a few snowdrops just beginning to open in the grounds of Hemingstone Hall, visible through the beech hedge.

By the time you read this there will be many more. Further along the path near Hall Cottage was a substantial clump of Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*), sadly misnamed as the flowers have no scent and the leaves, if crushed in your hands just have a slightly rank smell. Next to this clump was a large tuft of similarly named Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*). Again I could detect no smell but a bright opened pod of orange berries was a good splash of colour. I had not met anyone by the time I reached the grassland



Above: Recent flooding
Left: Aconites in Church Road

but at the top of the slope a Muntjac deer was wandering along the hedge taking no notice of me. Two other walkers gave me a good wide berth as I sat on the picnic bench before returning. I've just received a most interesting collection of observations from a house in the Spring lane area. They had a dramatic visit from a squirrel which had slipped down their very tall chimney into a wood burning stove which was, fortunately, not alight. The owners of the house were only able to tempt it out by using a humane rabbit trap and providing this B&B with some nuts and water.

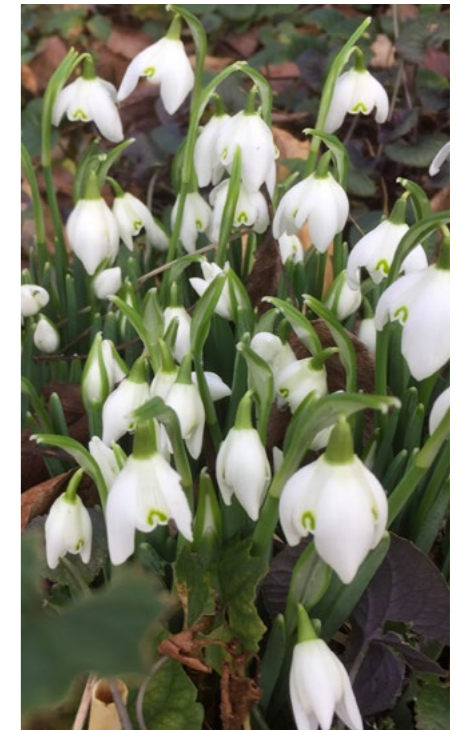
SPADEWORK

Not long ago (19th December 2020) *The Times* ran a surprising article on "gardening racism". A BBC presenter called James Wong had said that British gardening had "racism baked into its DNA". The upshot had been a spate of death threats which, of course, is only to be expected these days, and can even be construed as a sign that you are being taken seriously. James Wong seems to have been irked by the use of words like "heritage" and "native" – probably on Gardeners' Question Time. He is not entirely off the mark for we are wary of, for example, Spanish Bluebells that threaten to overpower and exclude such natives as you find in the woodland on Broomhill. Nor do we always take to grey squirrels, an American import that will eat into our electric cables with bad consequences.

Railway travellers will have tuned in to Canadian Fleabane that seeds prodigiously and is now everywhere, even on Coddendam High Street and on the allotments. Nearby you will find examples of Wild Salsify, said to have originated

in Eurasia – which can mean just about anywhere from the Steppes to the Himalayas. Wallflowers grow well on the dry soil around here, but they seem to have originated somewhere to the South. Stinking Hellebores are more promising and are sometimes listed as "natives", but look again and you will see that they are attributed to mountainous regions in Greece, for example. So, I would say that there is no way of being sure about the term "native".

It is better kept with rhetoric and sales talk. "Heritage" is even more slippery and often associated with old-fashioned tomato varieties that are prone to blight. Heritage potatoes would include Home Guard, introduced in 1942. That is to say, we are only entertaining ourselves when we use such terms. They are very approximate, and James Wong would surely have been aware that the majority of British garden plants originated in China – and in many points East. I have a good *Chimonanthus* (Wintersweet) now in flower, and it is usually attributed to China – and to Japan and Korea for good



Above: First snowdrops Broomhill

measure. Nearby is a *Viburnum*, a plant linked to Ukraine and Russia, but due to interbreeding at Bodnant (Wales) in 1935 has a new point of origin. Most of our roses are, it seems from their names, French but before that were at home in the Middle East, as it was once called, and even further away – China again.

By Ian Jeffrey

The Coddendam Community Response Group



By Andrew MacPherson

This group which represents nearly all the voluntary and charitable bodies in Coddendam continues to provide help and information either directly or through its community website for the parish. We are meeting up to twice a month to share our current work, review any local COVID issues and identify where we might between us, best help

residents and neighbours. Please make use of www.coddendam-parish.uk, share items on social media, contact us confidentially or comment, encourage or raise issues through our 'Have Your Say' page Community Feedback - on the the Coddendam Parish Community Website.

HISTORY RECORDER

...time will tell

By John Pelling

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News of the first post-Brexit lorry reaching France via Eurotunnel recalls my first (and I think only) school journey there seventy years ago. That was a very different experience – train early in the morning from Victoria, a four-hour sea crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe, and another rail journey to Paris, arriving in the evening – the lorry would have arrived in less time than our ferry.

Coming from one of the poorer (now yuppified) areas of London, we knew more than enough of bomb damage. It was nothing like as bad as Paris, however. If we could have travelled back another thirty years, to when names were inscribed on the village war memorial, we would have seen hardly any damage in Paris. Those who died in the Great War, probably during their first visit, and those who survived but no doubt suffered more than anyone could realise, had seen devastation in the eastern and northern provinces of France on a scale comparable to earthquakes.

Almost all that damage here and in France has long since been repaired. Some of the demolished buildings have been replaced by taller, frequently more vulgar, buildings. In Coddendam few signs of wartime structures remain, although Ian Jeffrey's article last month mentioned an Anderson shelter and brick external closets. (It is still possible to visit a shelter during Open Gardens in Bury.) We also have the old lock-up, reputedly last occupied by an inebriated American



ABOVE: The Ellis family at the Dukes Head

serviceman. A happier memory of another American's wartime experience here is in the letter he wrote to Mrs. Ellen Ellis of the Duke's Head of which Sylvia Bickers now holds in the archives of the [Coddendam Village History Club](#).

Those of us who were children during WWII will remember Mickey Mouse gas masks, supplied in case of gas as well as high explosive and incendiary bombs. Soldiers, particularly in the Great War, had horrific experiences of gas. Now it seems we may have to make a habit of wearing surgical masks in the open air as well as in shops, for protection from Covid 19. Whether or not the vaccines will save us from that only time will tell.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our Christmas celebrations started with a short outdoor carol concert played by members of the wonderful East of England Co-op band. Then later in December on Christmas Eve, and despite heavy downpours and a chilly wind beforehand, St Mary's St Marys Church Coddendam - The Coddendam Parish Community Website ([coddendam-parish.uk](#)) welcomed about eighty socially distanced villagers to its outdoor Christmas celebration.

Held in the churchyard, the story of the first Christmas was retold amidst Christmas trees that had been set up and decorated by villagers, while the backdrop of the church was beautifully illuminated by Dave Miller and Gavin Hailes. A local family portrayed the characters from the Christmas story and Charlotte Fawdry led the singing of traditional carols. The final Advent window in Coddendam was located in the church porch where the church's traditional nativity figures were arranged around a manger. Even though we could not meet inside church, the message of the first Christmas could still fill us with 'comfort and joy'.

... Trees Galore!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored and decorated a tree in the Churchyard over the festive period and helped bring some much-needed colour and joy to the village in these most challenging of times, as well as providing a festive backdrop to the outdoor crib service on Christmas Eve.



ABOVE: Just a few of the many trees in St Mary's Churchard this Christmas

We managed to keep them standing upright for the duration, despite the weather doing its utmost to wreak havoc on several occasions! The trees were adorned in an array of creative recycled and environmentally friendly decorations ranging from natural materials to recycled coffee cups. Well done to the Margaritelli family who won first prize for the bird feeder tree and to the Jill and Allan

West who took second prize for the creative use of natural materials. £170 was raised through the sponsorship and the [The Gardemau Trust](#) who kindly donated £150. Any profits made after expenses will go towards the Church Fabric fund.

By Debbie McDonnell & Angela Thompson

THE CoddENHAM CENTRE

By the Chair:
The CoddENHAM Centre
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Our pursuit of the health and wellbeing of CoddENHAM and surrounding areas, is temporarily on hold. Like the rest of the country, we are locked down and full details can be found in the latest CoddENHAM Centre COVID Bulletin. Tier 5 or 'Lockdown' * - What it means for your CoddENHAM Centre.

To still stay productive during this time, we have once again got stuck into the various inherited maintenance matters. Partly prompted by our hot water system being condemned at Xmas, we have bought forward our plans to **improve our environmental footprint**. These plans sit alongside our two other key objectives of widening the Centre's usage and above all, ensuring an economically sustainable future.

With some Parishes already declaring a climate emergency, we have always felt it is important that your CoddENHAM Centre plays its part in improving its environmental (as well as its financial) impact, on behalf of the public it serves.

In the summer we conducted a short survey of the Centre, with the help of **Mid Suffolk District Council**, which reported in the Autumn. Since then, we have started to secure costings and examined where we can get the most from our efforts. Funding opportunities are available, and we feel we should work to draw upon them, if possible.



First steps will be relatively simple. An examination of the Centre's insulation revealed nothing in the roof voids other than below the roof tiles. For fifteen years these huge unoccupied spaces have been heated unnecessarily using oil at an estimated cost of more than £30,000.

The next step (stay with me) is more challenging; the replacement of the oil-fired heating with **Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)**.



The maintenance of our hot water system has been overlooked for several years and is beyond economical repair. Central heating is sound and served by underfloor pipes which will work with ASHP. Ground source heat options (heat from deep below ground) are prohibitively expensive. Solar is not enough, but may help in the future.

Last, but by no means least, we are working with Suffolk's Plug In Programme to establish recharging points in our large car park. For the zero-carbon travel option, a long overdue cycle rack is on our list. There are also plans for additional trees and new native hedging.

Grants are available, but the pursuit of the significant funding required is complex and exhaustive. The rewards nonetheless, we believe are worth it. Preliminary estimates indicate we **will save 500 tons of CO2 annually**, potentially offsetting the current impact of **all the homes in the CoddENHAM residential 'envelope'** and over 70% of that of the entire Parish.

Whilst surviving the current pandemic is of course foremost in mind, as it is with everyone else, we hope these initiatives



towards CoddENHAM playing its part in addressing the climate challenge, will be supported by our community.

Andrew MacPherson
Chair – The CoddENHAM Centre.

www.thecoddENHAMcentre.co.uk

Your comments and questions are welcome at: enquiries@thecoddENHAMcentre.co.uk

* CoddENHAM Centre Covid Bulletin
Tier 5 or 'Lockdown'



Produced voluntarily for the Coddendam Community

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