



NEWS UPDATE

CODDENHAM-PARISH.UK

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The Coddendam Community Response Group (CCRG) Celebrates its First Birthday!

The CCRG was set up in March 2020, initially in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Members currently include the **Coddendam Centre, Community Shop, Church and PCC, the Day Foundation and Gardemau Trust. The Coddendam Country Club, History Club and Football Club** further strengthen the Group.

It meets every month, maintaining a clear focus on taking positive action and responding to the needs of the community.

The CCRG has had a **very busy first year**, but some notable achievements include establishing the **new Community Website, publishing Covid-19 and other useful information** via the site, email, posters and hard copy newsletters, **obtaining grant funding** for community support activities, the provision of **goodwill parcels and financial support for the vulnerable**, the **establishment of a helpline and 'telephone tree'** and **organising a number of community events** when regulations allowed. **CCRG won a BBC 'Making a Difference' Award** and member organisations have gained other accreditations for supporting the community.

In September last year it extended its terms of reference, which is available online <https://www.coddendam-parish.uk/ccrg-terms-of-reference/> (or ask for a copy), to become the **Coddendam Community Response Group**, to continue to work together 'as a community, supporting the community'. **A list of nearly fifty CCRG's activities** over the last twelve months are on the Coddendam community website. A printed copy can be obtained on request. You can look over all the village events of the last year by going to the News Section at <https://www.coddendam-parish.uk/news/>



The CCRG and the Environment

With local authorities declaring a climate emergency; the CCRG recently added the environment to its response agenda.

All members are committed to playing their part individually and collectively. Several initiatives are already underway and we hope to help the community on the road to zero carbon by 2050.



Coddendam Community Shop

Lockdown hit us six months after opening, following three months of appalling weather and two months of road closures.

A year on, **Coddendam Community Shop is still very much in business**, working with other village partners to serve and support our community and customers from further afield too. **The shop has won a number of awards and has featured on the BBC and in local and national newspapers.** We are a Community Benefit Society and recently held our first (Zoom) AGM. The accounts and business plan for the next year were unanimously approved by members and the whole Committee unanimously re-elected. Shareholder comments included: **"...the shop has survived a year which would have killed off many less robust organisations; '...huge confidence in the plans going forward...; '...lucky to have the shop and have it managed by such a committed and skilful bunch.'** We will be re-opening our popular cafe as soon as regulations permit, and are working with some excellent new local suppliers to provide truly 'The Best of Suffolk'.

Thanks to all our customers and to Bliss and the volunteer team we couldn't do it without you!

www.coddendam-parish.uk/community-shop/



The Coddendam Centre

Despite having to lockdown within six months of becoming a charity, your Coddendam Centre has not only survived, but seemingly thrived.

We have still managed to support the health, well-being and even some recreation for Coddendam and surrounding areas. With the ongoing support of the community via the Parish Council precept (although we were still able to reduce dependency by 14% and manage other costs), plus other benefactors, including the Day Foundation, Gardemau, MSDC and many volunteers, we are still very much in business.

There are **over seventeen activities available at the Centre** and we are looking forward to being fully open again, COVID permitting, by May 2021. Unexpected repairs bought forward our environmental strategy, and adoption of a Carbon Charter.

With the help of everybody, customers, suppliers, Trustees, staff, volunteers, our community and friends, we look forward to returning to building a sustainable future for your Coddendam Centre over the next year!

Up to minute details, how to book or hire www.thecoddendamcentre.co.uk

The Day Foundation

Haysel House has remained closed for most of the year, because of Government restrictions.

However, this has undoubtedly helped keep Mary Day Close free from COVID-19 infection. We look forward to being able to re-start activities after Step 3 of the route map. All residents have had their first jab for a few weeks.

On a sad note we report the deaths of **Brian Cook**, and our last founding trustee, **John McNally**, both of whom had been suffering from long-term illnesses.

Meanwhile, our residents remain positive and cheerful, thanks in part to a number of initiatives, such as occasional Friday cakes, and visits by the fish & chip van and Coffee Station.

The Coddendam History Club

Our customary series of monthly talks was curtailed following the initial Covid lockdown.

Our 2020 programme was totally cancelled, including the planned visits to Sutton Hoo and the Mid-Suffolk Railway Museum.

The bright spot has been the excellent articles posted to our website by Sylvia Bickers, Sally Garrod and John Pelling. Our plan is to digitise all of our archive material with the help of the Community website and to increase accessibility. In the meantime we wait for the easing of restrictions and the return of our regular meetings at Haysel House.

Sadly, **Sylvia Harris**, our former chair and a passionate supporter passed away, earlier this year. We will all miss her!

Please share and contact us if further copies are needed, or if you know of anyone who might need help or support in the Parish or surrounds.

St Mary's Church, Update

Places of worship are now open for 'live' services providing a risk assessment has been carried out and Covid regulations are followed.

The North Bosmere Benefice will hold weekly 'live' services on a rota basis complemented by a programme of Zoom services. Holy Week services are as follows

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- Wednesday 31st at 9.00am March Morning Worship on Zoom
- Friday 2nd April at 9.30am, Good Friday Worship on Zoom
- Friday 2nd April at 6.30pm, Good Friday Devotional Service and on Zoom
- Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday
- 6.00am – Dawn Service, Earl Stonham Churchyard
- 9.30am – Easter Worship on Zoom
- 11.00am – Easter Holy Communion, Stonham Aspal Church

To join a Zoom service email reader.ruthdennigan@gmail.com.

To book attendance at service, contact **Revd Philip Payne** – **01449 711684** revphilippayne@btinternet.com at least 2 days before the service.

St Mary's continues to be open for private prayer every Thursday.

There will be services of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 11.00am on Sunday 25th April and Sunday 30th May. Details of all Benefice services can be found on the Church noticeboard and on the [Coddendam Community Website](#). The Pew Sheet and Thoughts from the Rectory are uploaded weekly.

We look forward to seeing parishioners virtually or in person soon.

The Gardemau Trust

True to our Christian charity ethos, the Gardemau Trusts have focussed on working with our partner community organisations to support villagers through a very tough year.

We have helped pay for morale-boosting parcels, made cash donations to those in need, and provided funding for community events such as **The Live Nativity** and outdoor concerts by the **CoOp Brass Band** (thankyou all). The Trusts have also made **significant regular donations to FIND** (Families in Need), a brilliant charity which helps anyone who is struggling in this part of Suffolk.

We're looking forward to the end of lockdown and positive developments such as helping re-establish The Mothers and Toddlers Group at the Coddendam Centre. Let's hope summer 2021 is a happier and easier season for all, and a new beginning in so many ways.'

Other Clubs

The Coddendam Country Club will be announcing plans for reopening soon and **Coddendam Athletic Football Club** resume training for what is hoped to be an uninterrupted 2021/22 season.