

Coddenham Village History Club Newsletter ~ February 2022

After the trials and tribulations of the last two years perhaps we may now look forward to a life becoming somewhere near normal. We are therefore, at last, arranging a history club programme this year. We will use the Coddenham Centre as a venue for talks for the time being as Haysel House is still out of bounds to non-residents.

We feel that memories of village life during the last 2 years should be recorded in some way and being reminded by our Chairman, memories quickly fade and this is probably the best time to put them on record for the entertainment of club members in 2072 or even 2120. He came up with the brilliant suggestion that, starting with history club members, we provide 10 memories of the Covid, for example:

- 1) Walking down the middle of the High Street – no cars, no people and if you did see someone you crossed over to the other side of the road.
- 2) The 8pm clapping for the NHS.
- 3) Hand sanitizers everywhere
- 4) The 5pm Downing Street Broadcasts on the TV
- 5) Zoom
- 6)

These are just 5 points that can be elaborated on and which indicate a whole different way of life we had to adjust to. Once you get started its quite easy to get to 10. It doesn't matter if there are repeats, it all just proves some points were more important than others and there are bound to be novel ones. One particular memory for me when I lived in Mickfield was the silence. There had always been the noise of traffic from the A140 which we didn't really notice before, but during that first lock down all we could hear outside were the birds. Another special memory is of Anna playing her various instruments on top of the church tower every lunch time, my particular favourite was the bagpipes. Lets see what we can all come up with.

Annual Subscriptions

In early 2020 when the country went into its first lock down we had already received subscriptions for that year and unfortunately had to cancel all our events. With that in mind, the committee agreed that we would waive the subscription fee once again for this

year and start afresh in January 2023.
Your committee for this year:

Chairman: Ray Collins
V-Chairman: Ian Jeffrey
Treasurer: Susan Ashford
Secretary: Sally Garrod
Programme: Sue Allison
Committee: Sylvia Bickers
John Pelling
Nigel Allison

Sadly, Brenda Hudson has decided to come off the committee due to other commitments, but is still very much interested in our activities. Both she and David have been involved with the club for over 30 years now and their input has been exceptional.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

A Poacher's Life with the Whistlecraft Family!

On Tuesday 12th April Pip Wright will entertain us with a spellbinding tale of poaching, murder and intrigue – the true story of the notorious Whistlecraft family from Rickinghall and Hinderclay. A family of poachers who now have 'folk hero' status within the local community, especially Joe Whistlecraft for reasons we will discover when Pip Wright takes over his character! 7.30pm The Coddendam Centre. Members free, visitors £3.

Afternoon Visit to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway at Brockford

An afternoon visit to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum at Brockford is booked for Tuesday 17th May. There will be a welcome introduction to the 'Middy' with a cup of tea or coffee followed by a slide-show outlining its history and archive material. We then have a guided tour of the station to include the Restoration Shed, the locomotives and coaches, the Wickham Trolley and, if weather permits, a walk down the line. The tour ends with a visit to the museum and shop and the option to re-visit the Refreshment Room.

We meet at Brockford Station at 2.30pm. Cost: £5 per person which includes introductory refreshments. Refreshments are available after the visit at additional cost. So we have an idea of numbers, please fill in the application form with this newsletter and return by 25th April.

Charlie & “The Dig”

An Evening with Charlie Haylock and 'The Dig' is planned for Friday 29th July. This is an intriguing and sometimes hilarious look behind-the-scenes in the making of the Netflix film "The Dig". The film is based on a novel with the same title about the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved.

Charlie will explain how a potential 'scam' email from 'The Dig' producer turned out to be real, and was followed by a phone call from Ralph Fiennes. He will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played Basil Brown, and the other 'Suffolk' actors, learnt their Suffolk accent and not sound like West Country pirates! Charlie will also explain the extreme lengths that Ralph Fiennes took, not only to play Basil Brown but to become Basil Brown himself. The talk is both informative and extremely entertaining. 7.30pm The Coddendam Centre. Members free, visitors £3.

More talks are planned for the Autumn and will appear in the September Newsletter.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

At the beginning of June this year we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are planning to put up a display on how Coddendam celebrated royal occasions in the past. If you have any photographs of the past events (the Silver and Golden Jubilees) you are able to share with us please contact any member of the committee. To get you in the mood, the following was written by Marjorie Semmence in 1977, the then President of the Coddendam Women's Institute. Incidentally, for those who were there at the time, one of the most memorable moments must have been Marjorie Semmence and Clarissa Baker on the greasy pole! Does anyone have a photograph of it?

Jubilee Day 1977

Jubilee Day 1977 for Coddendam began in the January with a Beetle Drive as a starting date to collect funds for the celebration. This was very successful and also thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. Following this we had an equally profitable Coffee Morning and a Bring & Buy stall at Church Close, the home of Mr & Mrs George Tilbrook; a Concert at the village church of English Music by Miss Wyles, Joan Leefe, Zena Baker and accompaniments by Alan Page. Also, a play was acted by the Guides in the church.

The Jubilee Committee was ably chaired by Mr John Ward and included people representing the various clubs in the village such as The Women's Institute, Football Club, Country Club, the Church and the Chapel.

The different items were undertaken by one of the above. Teas being catered for, of course, by the Women's Institute. Numerous people in the village made cakes, the response was quite amazing. The day before the Jubilee, Tuesday June 6th 1977, several WI members gathered at the local Butcher's Shop in School Road which Mr Semmence,

the President's husband, had kindly loaned us for the day. As this shop is nearly adjacent to the Recreation Ground it made storing and delivering very much easier. All cakes were brought here and were duly cut up and sandwiches prepared for the Great Day. We had asked everyone who was able to deliver cakes and food to the shop and the village responded magnificently! During the morning, the cakes simply poured in until we had hardly an inch to spare. There were chocolate cakes, coffee cakes, iced cakes, fruit and plain cakes, cream cakes and shortbread, all sorts of biscuits, sausage rolls, tarts and scones. In fact, you name it we certainly had it!

The WI ladies packed 100 paper plates with food and put them into plastic bags for the children. We made 24 loaves into sandwiches which included cucumber and Marmite, egg, cheese and tomato, sandwich spread and pilchard. By the time we had sliced up the large cakes we had over 700 portions of cake alone. Everything was left ready for the afternoon of the next day.

Meanwhile, the men had been busy on the Recreation Ground which had been decorated with red, white and blue bunting chains and the ground marked out for the different events. Also, a corner was sectioned off for refreshments by the Cricket Hut, and bales of hay placed around as seating.

On Wednesday morning everyone seemed busy making sure that nothing had been forgotten. The afternoon started with a slight shower of rain but this failed to dampen spirits and fortunately it soon passed. The children's Fancy Dress was the first event and many entered, of all ages, with costumes varying from the attractive to the comical and the topical. A deal of effort had obviously gone into the making and it was difficult to pick the winner, the judges being Mrs Joan Ward and Mrs Stallibrass. We then had races including a sack race with our eldest entrant being Mr Stallibrass, 90 years young! Other amusements also included a delightful carnival 'Rocket' made by Mr David Bickers in which the children enjoyed rides both on the Recreation Ground and through the village. Also, the Greasy Pole which was tested by 'Past and Present' WI Presidents, Mrs Baker and Mrs Semmence. A pony belonging to Mrs Hales was also available for rides for the children. These were only some of the entertainment. Buses were provided by Mr Bickers to bring those who had no transport and these also supplied a 'grandstand' view for those who wanted to just sit and watch.

By this time the WI were getting arrangements for the tea in hand. Members had dressed up in red, white and blue, some with hats with coloured ribbons. The tea urns were in the Cricket Pavilion and also a freezer loaned by Mr Roy Gudgin in which to keep the ice cream. This proved very popular when the children discovered that ice cream was free and they could have as much as they wanted! Tables were soon laden with sandwiches and cakes, people passing along and making their choice and then collecting their cup of tea, and then on to sit on the bales of hay and enjoy their selection of 'eats'.

After this, several posies were presented, one to Mr Ward as Chairman and Mrs Semmence accepted one on behalf of the WI. Mugs were then presented to the children

of the village, over 90 in number, by the Rector, The Reverend Rodney Owens and Mrs Owens.

Later in the evening, a large number of villagers wended their way to Mr Jack Day's large barn on the Cooper Road. It was a fine evening and everyone was intent on enjoying themselves. A Disco was soon in progress and old and young took to the floor. Meanwhile, a barbecue with Mrs Sylvia Bickers in charge was soon proving a popular attraction. There were hamburgers, steak, pickles, etc. and the cooks were kept busy. This continued until 11 o'clock with villagers enjoying the food, dancing in the barn and really ending the day in high good humour. Finally the festivities were brought to a close with a final Conga around the farmyard, after which we all joined in singing 'God Save the Queen' and gave three rousing cheers to bring to an end a day that we shall all remember.

Marjorie Semmence

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 12th April: "A Poacher's Life" by Pip Wright. 7.30pm The Coddendam Centre
Members free, visitors £3

Tuesday 17th May: Afternoon visit to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway at Brockford
Meet 2.30pm at Brockford Station. Cost: £5 per person. (Please fill
in
application form and return by 25th April)

Friday 29th July: An Evening with Charlie Haylock & 'The Dig'.
7.30pm The Coddendam Centre. Members free, visitors £3

Working Meetings: These are held at Ivy Farm House, High Street, Coddendam, for anyone wishing to research, work on a project or just browse through the material we have collected over the last 38 years. (Good grief – it really is that long ago!) We hope to resume these evenings in the Autumn.

Newsletter Editor: Sally Garrod, 15 Mary Day Close, Coddendam, IP6 9SR. Tel.01449

760542

Coddenham Village History Club

Visit to Mid Suffolk Light Railway – 2.30pm Tuesday 17th May 2022

N a m e /
S.....
.....

Address.....
.....
.....
.....

Tel No..... E -
mail.....

Cost: £5.00 per person Total.....

Please return form by 25th April to: Mrs Susan Ashford, 32 Steggall Close, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8EB.

Cheques payable to 'Coddenham Village History Club' or Bank Transfer:
Co-operative Bank. Sort Code 08-92-99 Account No.65522455

(If you are paying by bank transfer we still need you to return the form please)

Coddenham Village History Club

Visit to Mid Suffolk Light Railway – 2.30pm Tuesday 17th May 2022

N a m e /

S.....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Te l No E -

mail.....

Cost: £5.00 per person

Total.....

Please return form by 25th April to: Mrs Susan Ashford, 32 Steggall Close, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8EB.

Cheques payable to ' Coddendam Village History Club' or Bank Transfer:
Co-operative Bank. Sort Code 08-92-99 Account No.65522455

(If you are paying by bank transfer we still need you to return the form please)