

Coddenham Village History Club Newsletter ~ November 2021

Our History Club Committee recently met 'face to face' at last. Much was debated on the future of the history club as well as global matters such as Climate Change and the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic. As far as the future of the club is concerned we hope to start holding meetings with speakers again next year with the Coddenham Centre being the most suitable venue for social distancing. Haysel House, where we usually hold our meetings, is still out of bounds for the time being. All being well, we intend to re-book our visits to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum at Brockford and Sutton Hoo for 2022, both of which had to be cancelled last year.

With regard to Climate Change, Coddenham leads the way with the installation of an Air Source Heat Pump in the Coddenham Centre to replace the old boiler, and the installation of electric car charging points there as well. The Heat Pumps were part funded by Mid Suffolk District Council and part Viridor Waste Credits and the car chargers were supplied by Suffolk County Council. The chargers, which are officially "community hybrid payment fast chargers" (it means you can pay several ways including credit card), are the first in the country. Yes, the Country!

The History Club is still the most popular section of the Coddenham Website (www.coddenham-parish-uk/coddenham-village-history) and is regularly updated. However, we are looking for someone else to help operate our site so if you or anyone you know is able to do this, please let us know.

RECORDING FOR THE FUTURE

We are living through a pandemic which has affected each and every one of us. As John Pelling, our village history recorder, pointed out in the Six Village News in October, we should be recording the impact of this Covid-19 on our community today. Can you remember the first lockdown last year when suddenly there were hardly any vehicles on the road and how we crossed to the other side of the road when dog walking to avoid contamination from another human being? Working from home, home teaching, zoom meetings? The wonderful service of our Community Shop and its dedicated volunteers? Also to be remembered is the community spirit it inspired. So, if you feel you can contribute by putting pen to paper and passing on to us your own experiences you will be

helping future generations to understand the enormous impact of Covid-19 on communities such as ours.

The bubonic plague hit Needham Market in 1663. The residents were quarantined for 2 years and chains were strung across the road at each end of the town. The plague took a heavy toll claiming two thirds of the population, but very few accounts exist from that time. However, when the plague arrived in Eyam, Derbyshire in 1665, the Rev William Mompesson imposed a very strict 14 month lockdown and kept a daily diary. The story of "The Plague Village", as it is now known, is fascinating and the village and museum is well worth a visit. If it wasn't for the Rev Mompesson and his record keeping its story would have been lost to history like that of Needham Market where the only reminder now is the 'Chain House' at one end of the village and Chain Bridge at the other which marked the isolation zone.

There is much to be learned from the past. Sadly, we know virtually nothing about the impact that the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic had on Coddendam. It lasted just over two years but there appears to be no record of it in Coddendam, not even in our own parish minutes, and yet there were an estimated 50 million deaths world wide with around 228,000 in the UK. Did we escape?

RECREATION GROUND

100 years ago, this month, an area of land in the village was given to Coddendam for a Recreation Ground by Lord and Lady de Saumarez of Shrubland Park and Captain Saumarez of Broke Hall, Nacton. It was to be free at all times for the inhabitants of Coddendam and kept in good order by the Parish Council. It wasn't long before the Coddendam Quoits Club asked to be granted three quoit pitches and goal posts were installed for the Coddendam Football Club. The Football Club also erected a hut and urinal. Village fetes were held there together with other local activities. In 1952 the Coddendam Cycle Speedway Club were granted a track. Today, the Recreation Ground is still being used for its original purpose. To commemorate the gift, the present Lord de Saumarez has donated £100 for a tree to be planted on the Recreation Ground and this will take place on Saturday 27th November.

A CODDENHAM DITTY - 1880

A very clever poem was written by George Lummis, the father of our founder Canon William Murrell Lummis, in 1880. It records the surnames of characters living in the village at the time. Another reminder of the value of recording the present for the future. The message that this poem tells us is that we must have been a very self contained village in those days.

A Song I will sing of a village you know
Which the County of Suffolk does grace
And I think when I've done you will think as I do

That it is a remarkable place.
Our Vicar is LONGE and has lived a LONGE time
While his Curate is short and is just in his prime
Though some think he's rather too YOUNG.
The Master of Shrubland won't do us much good
But say, have ne'er heard it spoke?
He would give some more money no doubt if he could
But he cannot because he is BROKE.
The farmers, of course, take a prominent part
And I think it's a fact worth remarking
That while one is known as a very good HART
Another is always found LARKING.
And here I will mention, as surely as I ought
A SALMON of the ENGLISH blood;
A fish out of water perhaps he is thought
But he doesn't live far from the MUDD.
Of birds, beasts and insects my ditty next tells
Who reside here through fate or for love
There are BUGGS, FOXES, GULLS and a MARTIN who dwells
In a house that belongs to a DOVE.
A GULL GULLS the people with physic and pills
And puts their limbs straight when they break 'em
He never forgets to distribute the bills
And takes but a short time to make 'em.
We've plenty of FOXES to show us some sport
And we see them run over the furrows
Of rabbits we certainly cannot be short
For we've several WARRENS and BURROWS.
In this village we've NORMANS, we've MOORES and we've

SCOTTS

And though we exactly can't tell
Of the old Anglo-Saxons no doubt we have lots
And a few true bred ENGLISH as well.
We've rich men and poor, and a WISEMAN I'm told
We have tall men and small men and big 'uns
We have many GOLDSMITHS, so of course we have GOLD
And we, like Australia, have DIGGENS.
Our BUTCHERS excel in the making of shoes
And not even a DUKE is above it;
There's nothing like leather you well may suppose
For our shoe manufacturers LOVETT.
We've a TURNER who follows the blacksmith's hot trade
And a TAYLOR who builds up a house
We must go somewhere else for our clothes to be made
And when finished can cry "Bravo ROUS".

Of grocers and drapers we have but a few
Which might have been mentioned before
Of dealers in tea we have many 'tis true
But of butchers we have MOORE and MOORE.
Our carriers too are both numerous and PRIME
And are quite a remarkable lot
They all get to Ipswich in very good time
And one of them keeps on the TROTT.
We have several more tradesmen but I'm afraid
In my ditty they cannot be classed
So I merely will say in each list that is made
Our Cooper is always named LAST.
The life of a neighbour has lately gone out
At the ripe age of ninety and five
That the village is healthy there can't be a doubt
for DEATH itself here is alive.
Our climate is mild and I think you will say
No better elsewhere could be found
For though we sometimes have a dull, wintry day
We have SUMMERS here all year round.

Geo. M. Lummis 1880

We would like to wish all our members a Happy and Healthy Christmas and we hope to meet up again in 2022. Keep Safe.

Newsletter Editor

Sally Garrod, 15 Mary Day Close, Coddendam, IP6 9SR. Tel 01449 760542