

St Mary’s Church

Although fundraising for the repairs to St Mary’s continues, the Parochial Church Council was pleased to have been granted £7000 by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Three more grant applications are pending at present. A fundraising concert by the Ipswich Hospital Band and monthly Coffee Mornings continue to support the project. The total raised so far is around £42000. Many thanks to all those who have supported the fundraising events.

The bells at St Mary’s have been very busy. There have been 3 visits by visiting teams of ringers and our own bell ringers rang to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The Church has also hosted a visit by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The Coddendam Baby and Toddler Group, supported by St Mary’s and the Gardemau Educational Charity, continues to thrive thanks to the volunteers who help to run the Wednesday morning sessions at The Coddendam Centre.

Although the North Bosmere Benefice (the group of churches) is still in an interregnum (no resident rector), services continue to be held regularly at St Mary’s and there has been the opportunity to try some new forms of worship; a Forest Church service was held in June which included the creation of a bug hotel in the churchyard (many thanks to volunteers from the Parish Council who constructed the framework).

The diocese is supporting the Benefice in advertising for a new priest, although nationally there is a shortage of those wishing to be ordained. In the meantime, the ministry team are doing a fantastic job keeping services going throughout the Benefice.

St Mary’s Church PCC



Coddendam Parish Council

Our Parish Council are sharing their news through a dedicated summer newsletter, available simultaneously with your Community News. If you cannot find a copy, please email or call the Parish Clerk Maggie Burt, by email at clerk.coddendampc@gmail.com or by telephone on 07548 152181.

The Day Foundation Latest news

A time of some natural turnover of residents with newcomers welcomed and settling in, enjoying the weather, when it is not too hot, and basking in the gardens which look splendid. The Foundation continues to explore other opportunities to benefit the people of Coddendam and surrounding villages, as defined by the remit given to us by the Day family and welcomes suggestions to be passed to Claire Martin by any means possible to be digested, discussed and dissected, then decided by the trustees. Difficult matters can be dispatched rapidly, while impossible requests may take a bit longer.

Simon Pott, Chair.

Community’s News Feedback

We welcome feedback and comments via your community website www.coddendam-parish.uk emailing support@coddendam-parish.uk or posting to the The Secretary, Coddendam Community Response Group via the Community Shop.

We have in this edition responded to requests to increase the type font size from 9.5 to 11pt. We hope you like it!

With thanks!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CODDENHAM-PARISH.UK

SUMMER 2025

Playground Project Essential repairs now underway

The playground on the Recreation Ground is owned by The Coddendam Centre CIO. The current play equipment has been in place for 15 years and is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. The playground is well used by villagers and families from the surrounding villages and plays an important role in encouraging fitness and social interaction for children.

Those who use the playground will have noticed that the zip wire (aerial runway) has been out of use for several weeks. Unfortunately, some safety concerns were raised during the annual safety inspection. Fortunately, the Coddendam Centre Trustees and some interested volunteers had already begun working on a project to refurbish and replace some of the ‘tired’ equipment. The questionnaire completed by over 50 families helped to prioritise what was required to improve the facilities and ensure they meet current safety standards.

The aerial runway and the toddler climbing tower were repaired in mid-June thanks to a grant from the Lady Catherine Gardemau Educational Foundation.

Grant funding will be required to replace and improve the other pieces of equipment. Funding has already been promised by the Day Foundation and the Parish Council, and an application has been made for Community Infrastructure Levy funding from Mid Suffolk District Council. If successful, the project will be completed in 2026.

The Playground Team



Image © Debbie McDonnell 2025

Gardemau Church Charity

Land in School Road Coddendam

After a long process lasting nearly three years, Coddendam’s historic Gardemau Church Charity (GCC) has been granted Outline Planning Permission by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) to construct a small detached house on the plot of land at the rear of the Old Lock Up, School Road, Coddendam. The GCC will be marketing the plot, which includes the Lock Up itself and is in the village Conservation Area.

The Lock Up is an unpretentious building, many people probably pass it every day without realising its age and original purpose. As far as can be ascertained, it was originally constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century as a place where the Village Constable could temporarily detain offenders. It was last used for this purpose in 1944, to lodge a US Serviceman who had over-indulged in the Fourth of July celebrations! Since then, it has served as a store and garden shed, but is now redundant.

The building is not listed, but the GCC recognises its historic and aesthetic value and has kept it maintained. At the GCC’s suggestion, MSDC has attached a Planning Condition that the Lock Up must not be damaged or altered when the site is developed, and that an explanatory plaque be provided on the building.

The GCC believes that Coddendam is short of housing suitable for couples and young families, as shown by residents’ responses in the 2022 Parish Survey, and intends that the new property will help address this shortage. Particulars of sale will be prepared for the plot and Lock Up to go to auction in the summer, with details to be posted beside the site access on School Road and elsewhere locally.

David McDonnell
Chairman, Gardemau Church Charity



Image © Georgie Kerr 2025

CCRG - What’s on and where

Local events for your diary*

	13th	Coddendam Fete	Fete Committee
	14th	Darts Evening	The Country Club
	15th	Talk - Schools and Education in Medieval Suffolk	History Club
August	9th	Coffee Morning	St. Mary’s Church
	17th	Antiques Fair	The Coddendam Centre
	21st – 25th	Bank Holiday Beer Festival	The Country Club
	23rd	Music Quiz	The Country Club
	24th	Rounders on the Rec.	The Country Club
September	3rd	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council
	13th	Coffee Morning	St. Mary’s Church
	16th	Talk - Events & Celebrations at Shrubland Hall 1840 to 1860	History Club
	20th – 21st	Flower Festival	St. Mary’s Church
	27th	3Rs and Household Energy Event	Parish Council, TCC and CSCE
October	11th	Coffee Morning	St. Mary’s Church
	12th	Afternoon of Music, Song & Dance. East Anglian Traditional Music Trust.	The Coddendam Centre
	21st	Talk - Tea for the British	History Club
	25th	Raewald Concert	St. Mary’s Church
November	1st	Quiz Night	The Coddendam Centre
	7th	Community Lunch	Parish Council and TCC
	8th	Coffee Morning	St. Mary’s Church
	9th	Christmas Market	The Coddendam Centre
	12th	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council
	17th	Antiques Fair	The Coddendam Centre
	18th	Annual General Meeting and Talk - Death, Sex and Drugs	History Club
	20th	Christmas Shopping Event	Coddendam Community Shop
December	5th	Community Lunch	Parish Council and TCC
	7th	Co-op Band Concert	St. Mary’s Church
	13th	Coffee Morning	St. Mary’s Church

* For further details, locations and updates etc - please see the community website www.coddendam-parish.uk or local notice boards. Note: events may be subject to change and additions.

Update from the Coddendam Community Response Group

As usual the first six months of the year have been busy for the CCRG member groups.

You can find out more about the individual groups in the newsletter, but I would like to highlight the events held to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The member groups worked together resulting in a weekend of events; the beacon lighting and bell peal, the History Club display in the church and the fish and chip supper at the Coddendam Centre. Villagers, young and old, were able to get a glimpse of the celebrations 80 years ago, as they joined in with the national celebrations. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to organise the events.

The village fete on 13th July, organised by Rachel, will see the CCRG members working together to create a fun afternoon for all.

The Coddendam Centre will be running the bar, St Mary’s Church will be serving tea and cake, the Gardemau Charities are sponsoring a roundabout and volunteers from all the village organisations will be running the produce competition, raffle, games, bric a brac etc. Proceeds from the fete will help support the work of the village organisations.

CCRG now has a calendar of events available on the website so that villagers can find out what is happening in advance. If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please contact coddendamcllr.nickmills@gmail.com.

My turn as chairperson is about to finish so I would like to thank all the representatives from the member groups for their support. Rod Stanley-Bell will take over as Chairperson at the next meeting.

Debbie McDonnell - Chairperson
And our thanks to Debbie for her extended tenure.

Your 2026 Diary:

April 26th
Suffolk Police Choir
St Mary’s Church

June 28th
Coddendam Open Gardens
and Scarecrows

Happy Mid-Summer from the Coddendam Community Shop

Remember, there are now only 180 shopping days till Christmas – and another key business driver for the Community Shop!

After the long winter months, the shop is coming alive again in time for Summer – the new window displays, social media posting and new ranges of goodies are at last enticing customers (new and old) to leave hibernation and join us – particularly for the **CoffeeStop** which as its reputation spreads, is becoming increasingly popular – which is great, as it generates a significant portion of our revenue and profitability.

Popularity can however sometimes be a bit hairy – especially with a lunch booking for 25 bell-ringers for **Bank Holiday Saturday!** But with some creative re-organisation, the help of our friends at the church, wonderful weather and an outstanding shop team effort– we were able to successfully offer the full Coddendam CoffeeStop experience “remotely” –and a great lunch was had by all.

Although every pound we take continues to be very hard won, the business is still doing well overall both in terms of sales revenue and contribution to the community. Our Supervisors **Diana and Hannah with the volunteer team** continue to work hard to maintain our sales growth but particularly to make sure all our customers get great, friendly service every time they come in the shop whether it is to buy, browse, have a coffee – or just a chat.

And we do seem to be doing something right ...

“Lovely people excellent coffee very nice experience all round”

“Friendly and welcoming”

“We had a wonderful Cappuccino here ! And a toasty. They were so friendly and welcoming. Thank you !”

“Lovely people clearly enjoying their job...”

“Lovely shop and super kind service. Don’t tell my grandmother, but they make the best flapjack I’ve ever had...”

So, the flapjacks have the final word. Except to say thank you to everyone for your continuing support – and of course it would be even nicer to see even more of you in the shop as well!

Rod Stanley-Bell - Chair CCSL

Now, where did we put those Christmas decorations...?



Environmental News

The Coddendam Centre launches blister pack recycling scheme, in conjunction with Mid Suffolk District Council

Recycling blister packs offers several environmental and economic benefits, including reducing landfill waste, conserving resources, and decreasing energy consumption. Blister packs, often made of plastic and foil, are difficult to recycle through conventional methods, but specialised programs are making it easier. By recycling blister packs, we can minimize their impact on the environment and contribute to a more circular economy.

Joining the Centre’s wide range of environmental initiatives, the collection point is in our lobby. Drop off when attending one of our nineteen activities!

Look out for the next Three 3’s Event on the 27th September, in conjunction with fellow CCRG members Coddendam Parish Council.

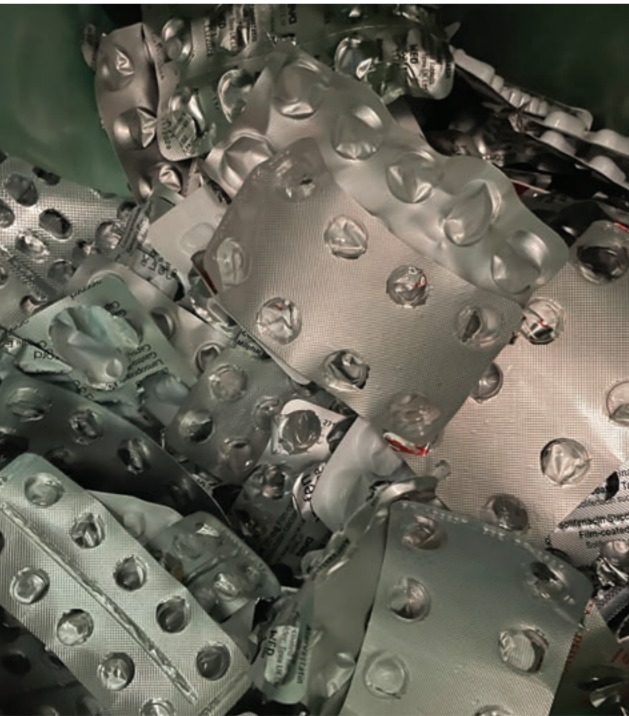


Illustration from: By Moonlight I Must Go to My Book

The Coddendam Village History Club

We have four talks remaining in the second half of the year

July 15th

By Moonlight I Must Go to My Book by Kate Jewell

A talk about schools in medieval Suffolk. Where the schools were, what they looked like and how the children were taught.

September 16th

Events and Celebrations at Shrubland Hall 1840 to 1860 by Victoria Clark

A second fascinating look at our very local history.

October 21st

Tea for the British by Miriam Stead

The story of the Tea Trade using local evidence and with a Suffolk twist.

November 18th

This is our AGM starting at 7pm and not to be confused with the subject of the talk following - “Death, Sex and Drugs – The Story of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood” by Geoffrey Kay.

All talks held at Haysel House and commencing at 7.30. Members free and non-members £5

Additionally, we are pleased to announce a new book compiled by committee member John Pelling, “Coddendam, A Community History”, a 40th anniversary publication detailing events in Coddendam from prehistory until the present day.

www.coddendam-parish.uk/coddendam-village-history-club/history-club-events-and-meetings/

Trustees to step down at The Coddendam Centre

An opportunity to play a part in an award-winning charity



You will join us at a pivotal time, having achieved in five years, from heavy loss making to break-even performance, some massive improvements in the centre and facilities, along with a 91% reduction in our carbon footprint. Suffolk County Council have referred to us as an ‘exemplar’. We nonetheless still have several exciting projects, improvements and opportunities waiting to be delivered, with your help.

You do not have to be a Coddendam resident, but sound professional business skills particularly for the leadership roles and a passion to participate in operational delivery from time to time, are essential.

We simultaneously welcome all Trustee offers of help and volunteer enquiries, whatever your experience, age group and background.

We also have capacity for a part-time, paid administrative role, details can also be found on our website at: www.thecoddendamcentre.co.uk

How do I make this happen?

You can talk confidentially to our current Chair & Treasurer, any of our fellow Trustees, the team and volunteers, or send a CV and covering letter to andrew.macpherson@thecoddendamcentre.co.uk.

More details about the Coddendam Centre, its people and purpose can we found at www.thecoddendamcentre.co.uk/about. This is a unique opportunity for you (or a friend/ family member/colleague) to be part of our future.

Questions (so far)

Why are The Chair & Treasurer stepping down?

Both will have completed more than six years service, some in the most challenging of the Centre’s history. In eighteen more months they must by statute to take a break anyway. Departure in 2026 will also allow a fully supported handover.



Above: Our Trustees

The Coddendam Centre has often described its need for voluntary help to continue its success story. We have been indebted to all those who have played a part, since 2019 (and in times before).

We now want to make a specific appeal to take leading roles in our future.

Our Chair & Treasurer plan to step down next year, so we are now recruiting for these two key voluntary roles, to head up the highly successful and award winning, Coddendam Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation.



Above: Our Support Team

What does a Trustee do?

It’s best to discuss with us what this means in day-to-day business. However, there is useful Charity Commission Guidance on the website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

Please talk to us!

Call the current Chair on 07944581299. Enquiries@thecoddendamcentre.co.uk

Coddendam Country Club

Coddendam Country Club has been very busy these past few months, with the exciting renovation of the pool room taking place

We are very thankful to the **District Council and Councillors John and Dave** for providing us with funding, via a Locality Grant to make this possible. This has enabled us to have the floor levelled and re-carpeted and all of the walls and woodwork sanded and re-painted. We have then purchased a new sofa, curtains and light fittings to make this space desirable and a lovely social hub for all members to use. We would like to also give a big thank-you to one of your members **Matt** for all of his voluntary hard work to get the room looking so great. He has removed all of the old pool wiring and lights, moved the location of the pool table and repositioned its light fitting, put up a dart board with new surrounding halo light, he has installed



a wireless speaker and wireless charging points, sourced and transported the new sofa and put up the new curtains and poles. We are very grateful for all of his hard work! All of this renovating has had a successful impact on the club already, seeing many more people now use this room, including a large number of younger clientele become members and enjoy this too. We hope to hold a grand opening evening of this and the snooker room. **More details to follow shortly.**

Our monthly in-house darts and poker competitions are still proving a success with between 10-20 people attending each month. These events are open to all parishioners, so why not come along and give one a try!

We have also just relaunched our famous ‘**Race Night.**’ This was a very successful event, alongside ‘**Grab A Burger**’ attending to feed the keen attendees; big thank-you to Committee member Golly for all of his hard work putting this event together. Another race night shall be held later in the year.

Coming up we have our monthly poker night, a takeaway evening on 12th July, our monthly darts night on 14th July 7.30pm, and our popular **August Bank Holiday Beer Festival** running from the 21st to the 25th of August; this shall include one off new ales and beers to try. We shall be holding a music quiz on the Saturday, and our much loved rounders on the rec on the Sunday.



Thank-you to all of our current members for all of their continued support and new members are always welcomed! Why not come and ‘try before you buy’ and see what you think.

New membership annual fee- £30 per family, £25 per single, £15 concessions. Becoming a member enables you to enjoy discounted beverages, to enjoy the use of the club as many times as you wish and of course to support your local community and business!

Our summer opening hours are: (times may vary and will be advertised)

Monday	5pm - 9pm
Thursday	5pm - 9pm
Friday	6pm - 11pm
Saturday	3pm - 9pm
Sunday	3pm - 7pm