**GARDEMAU TRUSTS REPORT FOR CODDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, MAY 2023.**

Although not as busy as during the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020-22, the Gardemau Trusts have had another full year.

The pressures of helping the community, particularly its more vulnerable members, through the Covid-19 outbreak have been replaced by other demands caused primarily by the current economic crisis and explosion in the cost of living.

Partnership working with other village bodies via the Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG) has been vital to making best use of our collective resources and the trustees welcomed the willingness of the ‘new’ Parish Council to re-engage with the CCRG. The benefits are already becoming apparent, for example in the first Parish Survey for 25 years, currently being used to draw up a detailed Parish Plan.

The main activity of all three Gardemau Trusts is the making of grants for charitable purposes, focussed primarily on the Parish of Coddenham, but extending to other locations, individuals and institutions with close links to the parish, such as the schools attended by the majority of Coddenham children. For more information on the history and makeup of the Gardemau Charities, their objectives, and how to apply for a grant, please see our section on the Coddenham Community Website coddenham-parish.uk

Grants given over the last year, in roughly chronological order, include:

Ongoing funding of the increasingly-successful Baby and Toddler Group.

Ongoing monthly donations of £400 to Families In Need (FIND), an award-winning Ipswich-based charity supporting vulnerable families.

Paying for Fair Trade tea and coffee after services at St Mary’s, Coddenham.

Funding for a Coddenham student to purchase photographic equipment for use in her college course.

Joint funding of a second defibrillator, to be placed in the centre of the village.

Purchase of a PA system for the Coddenham Centre, also available for other village bodies.

Providing funding for travel and training for Ukrainian refugees living in Coddenham.

Paying for a new notice board at Gosbeck Church.

Funding of new display boards at Coddenham, Gosbeck and Hemingstone churches.

Contributing towards new church toilet at Stonham Aspal church.

Jointly funding, with other CCRG members, a baseline wildlife survey (by Suffolk Wildlife Trust) of all public green spaces in Coddenham, with a subsequent management plan.

Grant to St Mary’s Church, Coddenham for maintenance of Lower Churchyard

Funding the reinstatement of the Hearing Loop at the Coddenham Centre.

Provision of a free Red Cross First Aid at Work course for 12 Coddenham residents, ensuring the village has a ‘ready supply’ of qualified First Aiders, both day to day and for village events. This is the third such course the Gardemau has funded.

Making of a substantial grant to Stonham Aspal Primary School for equipment, jointly with other charities.

Paying for an eco-based educational show for young children, explaining the importance of bees, at the planned Village Picnic in September.

This is not a complete list but, hopefully, gives an idea of the scope of the Trusts’ activities over the last 12 months or so.

The Gardemau Church Charity owns the old Village Lock-Up in School Rd, plus a small patch of land behind it. This has previously been rented to a local resident for parking. Following the tenant’s surrender of the lease, the charity is now considering how best to utilise this land to maximise the availability of funds to the charity, which it can then use for community benefit. There is a range of options, and exploring these whilst preserving the (Grade II listed) Lock-Up will be a major focus of the coming year.

For further information, please contact the Chairman, David McDonnell, on 07764 442761.