



# CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL PARISH NEWSLETTER

37  
AUTUMN 2016

## HOW CAN YOU BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Coddtenham has 11 positions on its Parish Council and everyone serves a fixed 4-year term.

The last election took place in May 2015 and the next will be in May 2019. Only once in the last 30 years have there been more candidates at election time than positions available. On that occasion a full secret ballot was held.

On other occasions all candidates have been elected 'unopposed'.

As the 4-yearly election time approaches, notices are posted at many locations around the village and throughout Mid-Suffolk. Potential candidates have to complete a nomination form, available on-line nowadays, and send it to the Returning Officer in Needham Market. Although Mid-Suffolk District Council arrange the election, the cost, if a ballot is held, has to be met by the Parish Council from the money it raises as its portion of the community charge. The cost of holding a secret ballot for the village is determined by Mid-Suffolk District Council and is currently about £2500.

If a councillor resigns, dies or is disbarred between elections the vacancy is displayed by official notice around the village. If 10 electors demand it the returning officer will normally call a formal election, at the expense of the parish, and applicants will need to complete nomination forms just as for a 4-yearly election.



If an election is not called for then the council may co-opt a new member. The process for co-opting a new councillor is not prescribed in law but the custom in Coddtenham is to display a notice and invite prospective candidates to submit a brief statement to the clerk to explain why they wish to be a councillor. At the next parish council meeting a list of the candidates and their statements (if any) are read out. The existing councillors then vote for the candidate that they would like to co-opt onto the council.

Most councillors work very hard and no one receives any payment or expenses for their time or attendance at meetings. The reward is being able to help to maintain and if possible improve the publicly funded facilities that the village community enjoys.

Details about being a parish councillor can be found at:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/141798/Part-1-Can-you-stand-for-election-P-and-C.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/141798/Part-1-Can-you-stand-for-election-P-and-C.pdf)





## PARISH COUNCIL LANDHOLDING

The Parish Council is custodian of six pieces of land in the village (and even owns part of a portion in Hemingstone Parish). The story of how it came to own the various land parcels is interesting and each is unique.

The first portion of land that came to be looked after by the Parish Council is the recreation ground. It is recorded in the minutes of the Parish Council in 1925 that this land was gifted to 'the children of Coddensham'. The shed that stands in the corner was originally the cricket pavilion which stood on the former cricket ground between Manor Farm and the Old Hall Estate.

The first children's play equipment was installed in 1974 and the current playground opened in 2010.

The three cocked hat has been looked after by the council since at least the 1930s when a former resident recalls 3 youths breaking the seat that had been installed on the land.

In 1987 the opportunity arose to purchase Broomhill and the cost was raised by public subscription led by the Parish Council to create one of the first 'pocket parks' in the country. Broomhill is maintained by volunteers led by Ian Jaffrey who have a work day each winter to clear unwanted ground growth and cut hedges to keep the semi-wild appearance of the hillside. Broomhill extends into Hemingstone Parish.

In the early 1990s a similar opportunity arose to purchase Mill Hill as an extension of the pocket park concept in the village. This time the purchase price was raised by a grant from the aggregates levy as the Shrublands Quarry was now active in the Parish. Once again volunteers, this time led by David Hudson, helped clear the invasive blackthorn and other scrub from the land and have helped manage it by regular coppicing. Both Broomhill and Mill Hill have been dedicated as 'Right to Roam' land under the 2000 act helping to protect these open spaces from development in the future.

The Community Centre was opened in 2004 after a decision by the whole village taken at an Extraordinary meeting to accept major funding from Sport England and to take out an additional loan from the Public Works Loan Board to fund construction of the centre. The land was originally leased but when the opportunity to buy the freehold arose an additional small loan was taken out, which together with reserves that the Parish Council already had, met the purchase price. The uses to which the land can be put is restricted in planning terms as it is outside the village development envelope and was granted exceptional planning consent for 'community use' only.

The most recently acquired portion of land is the allotments in Love Lane. Harking back to the 1920s, once again a generous benefactor gifted land to the Parish Council this year with a restriction that it can only be used as allotment gardens for the next 50 years.

None of the land has any significant commercial value and the Parish Council acts as guardian of these portions of land to ensure that they remain a publicly available asset for all villagers to enjoy.



## LOCAL HISTORY

The Local Government Act of 1894 established parish councils as opposed to bodies that were commonly known as the Parish. These were the more or less self-appointed “chief inhabitants”.

The Parish usually met in the church to administer summary justice, expel vagrants who were not native to the parish, provide poor relief and order the repair of roads.

The Parish appointed the responsible officers, for instance constables, overseers of the poor, surveyors of the highways and churchwardens, who shared

responsibility for parish funds kept in the parish chest.

We are lucky to have a transcript of Coddendam Parish minutes from the seventeenth century. It can be compared with “Sketches by Boz,” where Charles Dickens showed these officers still very much in control of their communities in the nineteenth.

A present-day parish council is a very different body.

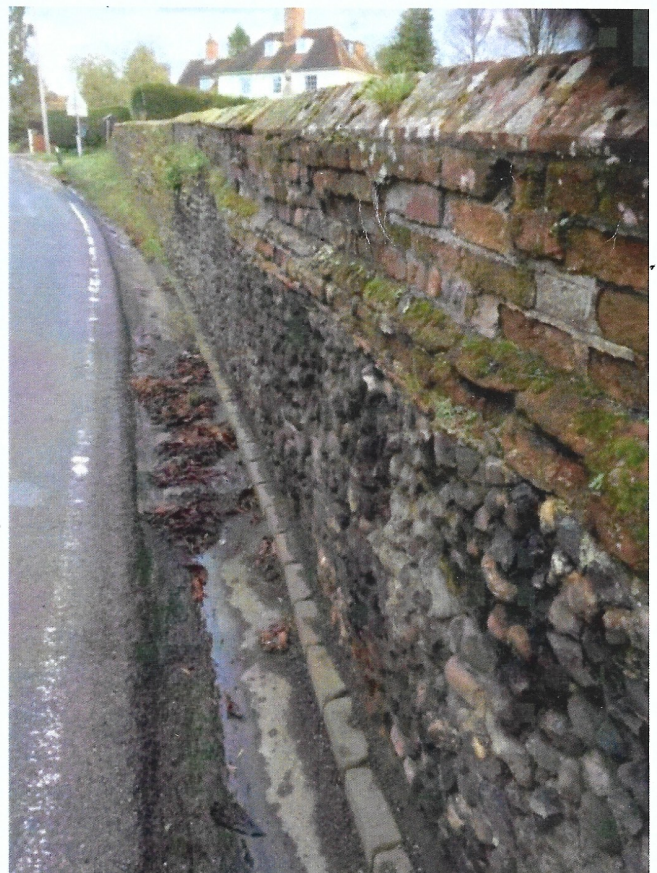
*John Pelling*

## CODDENHAM CHURCHYARD WALLS

The work to re-build the wall that collapsed between St Marys and the churchyard is now complete. Those who have watched this work progressing will have seen a considerable concrete foundation inserted below ground level. The collapsed wall has been rebuilt in a sympathetic style to that there previously and a considerable amount of re-pointing carried out to stabilise the rest of that wall.

The wall by the roadside now has to be repaired. Since our original fears that the cost of this could be tens of thousands of pounds, experts from the diocese now expect only some re-laying and pointing of the upper brick courses to be required at a considerably reduced figure between £2000 and £3000.

The Parish Council will be looking to authorise this repair as soon as possible so that the rest of the fabric of this historic wall can be saved.



*The churchyard wall showing the bulge over the road*



## **CODDENHAM CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **Vacancy for a Clerk/Admin Support**

Coddenham's Churchyard is renowned for its beauty and wildlife value, being recognised as a County Wildlife Site. The Churchyard Management Group is a voluntary body, independent of both the Parish Council and St Mary's Parochial Church Council, although always exchanging opinions and ideas with both. It includes representatives of both councils, persons with properties adjoining the churchyard, and others interested in its management. The Chairperson is a member of neither council.

The function of the group is to ensure the thoughtful care and management of the churchyard environment as a place of religious and community significance and a wildlife habitat, balancing sometimes conflicting needs and priorities.

The CMG maintains a fruitful relationship with Suffolk Wildlife Trust as well as the Parish and Parochial Church councils, and seeks to maintain

good relationships with all interested parties, including property owners sharing their boundaries with the churchyard.

The CMG meets approximately three times a year, and requires someone to assist with compiling and circulating agendas, and taking and circulating notes of meetings. The role is voluntary, the reward being the satisfaction of helping preserve one of Coddenham's greatest assets!

If you are interested, please contact:

David McDonnell as soon as possible, as below:

David McDonnell, Tel: 01449 761793,

Email:

[Deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com](mailto:Deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com)

### **NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

The church looked magnificent for our Harvest Festival service in September with several beautiful and most imaginative flower arrangements. We are very grateful to those who decorate the church each week – do pop in and take a look from time to time. Harvest Supper is at 7.00 pm on 8<sup>th</sup> October in the Community Centre and this is always a real village event.

You may have noticed all the work that has been done on the wall at the south side of the churchyard. As well as extensive re-pointing, a section that collapsed has been completely rebuilt.

On the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> September a team of visiting bell ringers successfully completed a full peal lasting three and a half hours – a remarkable achievement of stamina and concentration!





## Some dates for your diary:

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October (from 9 am)** grass-cutting and tidying the 'new' churchyard – any help would be very welcome.

**On the same day** it's the Coffee Morning at church from 10.00 to 12 noon. Do come and chat with friends and meet up with other villagers. Jams, marmalades and chutney will be on sale and children can enjoy decorating jam jars.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November** 10.00 to 12 noon. Coffee morning with jigsaw puzzles and bacon butties

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November** 10 am – a special service for Advent Sunday, bringing together the congregations of all the churches in our local grouping.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** 10.00 to 12 noon. Coffee morning with a Christmas flavour.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** 3 pm – the annual (and usually sold-out) brass band concert



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Eve) – there will be a Christingle and Crib service in the afternoon as well as 'Midnight Mass' at 11.30 pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Day) – service at 10 am.

*Ian Galbraith*

## CODDENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY CLUB

As well as a programme of talks and the occasional visit during the year the History Club offers the opportunity, for those interested, to use the archives stored at Ivy Farm House for projects run by the club and for individual research into local history. These archives are available, not only to members of the club, but for others who might want to look at them. There is a wide variety of different material collected and managed by Sylvia Bickers and Sally Garrod, the club's Archivists. Working meetings, when documents are available, are held at Ivy Farm House and are usually on a monthly basis, from 7.30pm. See the newsletters for dates or contact Sylvia Bickers tel. 01449 760382.

One project the club are planning uses Derek Pheasant's excellent collection of information in "Coddenham Heroes", on those whose names are on the War Memorial as having given their lives in the 1914-18 war. We hope to identify where these men may have lived in the village and to show these places on a map. We would be most grateful for any additional information that anyone might have which might help us. If you can help in any way please telephone Brenda Hudson 01449 760428.

One of our members has been doing some research of his own which includes using these documents which he has described here:

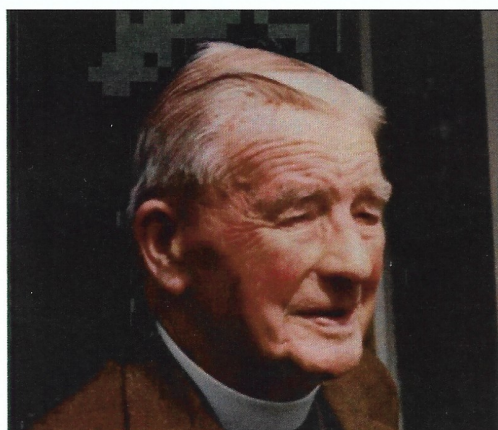
"Matthias Candler (1605-1663) was vicar of Coddenham from 1629 until his death. Despite being a strict Puritan he was not ejected at the

Restoration of Charles II, perhaps because ill health kept him from travelling to accept the required Articles of the Church of England.

His service to the parish extended well beyond preaching; he kept the Parish Church Minutes, listing not only the members of what today would be the PCC but also the poor people receiving help or beggars being sent to their home parishes. His personal interest led him to visit many other churches and record the monuments he found and to name the landowners and the value of their property. This often extends to sales and legacies. Over the last seven or eight years of his life he completed, sometimes with the help of his son, seven manuscripts enlarging on his initial summary of glass in Preston church. He seems also to have worked closely with William Blois of Grundisburgh Hall.

My research is aimed at presenting Candler's work in some form, because it is one of the most comprehensive summaries of life and people in Suffolk at one of the great turning points in our history. Apart from documents held elsewhere, I am grateful to have had access to the Coddenham Archive and the personal copy of an earlier work on seven Suffolk parishes, Reyce's Breviary, kindly loaned to me by Sylvia Bickers."





## CANNON WILLIAM MURRELL LUMMIS

1886-1985

In August 1981, the Coddendam Village sign was donated and unveiled by Cannon Lummis. Born here in Monks Cottage, he spent a lifetime collecting historical material from his own research and the memories of his father.

It was his book of the "History of Coddendam" that inspired and led to the formation of the Coddendam Village History Club in November 1986.

## CODDENHAM OPEN GARDENS AND SCARECROWS, SUNDAY 12TH JUNE

Although the weather wasn't great (although a lot better than the days either side, so thankful for small mercies!), Open Gardens and Scarecrows 2016 was once again a success. Seventeen gardens of all sorts and sizes were open, with nearly twenty scarecrows too, on a variety of themes – HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>, Euro Football, the Referendum....

Home-made lunches and teas were served at the Village Hall and our lovely village shop was also open, with a great BBQ outside, provided by local butchers Palfrey and Hall of Debenham. The Country Club held a well-attended mini beer festival too.

St Mary's churchyard was filled with wild flowers and visitors also enjoyed country walks through the Broom and Mill Hill nature reserves.

About £1600 was raised and has been shared between St Mary's Church and the Town 102 Kids' Trust.

Immense thanks are due from me and the Working Group to everyone who opened their gardens, made scarecrows, made cakes, donated or helped in any way and, of course, to everyone who visited our event. Special thanks to Roy and Debbie Hudd for judging the scarecrows in their inimitable style! Many people commented on what a lovely village

Coddendam is and that OG&S is a great community event.

### SCARECROWS 2016



This is probably the last time I will be leading the organising of OG&S, as my wife Debbie and I plan to spend a lot of time abroad in the next few years. It would be a shame if one of Coddendam's main events did not continue so, if you're up for a challenge or would simply like to know more, please do contact me. No obligation!

David McDonnell

Chair, Coddendam Open Gardens and Scarecrows Working Group

Tel: 01449 761793

[Deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com](mailto:Deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com)

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## CODDENHAM COMMUNITY AND SPORTS HALL MARKETING SURVEY

The Parish Council and Community and Sports Hall Management Committee are very proud of the facilities provided at the Hall but they are aware that it is not achieving its potential as a sporting and social facility for the whole community. With this newsletter you will receive a survey, asking for your thoughts and opinions about the facilities and how they could be improved to increase local participation at events.

### YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

Please complete this confidential questionnaire and return it to the Village Stores by the date shown on the survey form. The information will be analysed to form the basis of a future plan for the facilities.

Please note that the survey is not being funded from the parish precept but via a donation from a third party.

### The CLERK

Hi, I'm Peter Whitehouse and I was appointed to the post of the Parish Clerk in January this year.

I must say, it has been a steep learning curve, getting to grips with everything necessary to keep the administration side of the Council ticking over. Servicing each of the full Council meetings, usually on a monthly basis, takes up most of my time as well as Community Hall Management Committee meetings, and Finance Working Group meetings. The first two of these are formal meetings of the Councillors with agendas and minutes required for all of the business transacted. The third is a smaller group of councillors who have been asked by the Council to focus on the details of the Council's finances, particularly the formulation of the budget for the coming year, and to report back to Council.

I hope to be able to reserve some space in future newsletters to explain a little more about the role of the Council and its staff, so if you have any ideas

or questions on what goes on in your Council please email them to me and I'll try to include them in the next edition. You can find my Contact details below.

For any budding Parish Clerks out there, everything that the Parish Council does is laid down in the law of the land. There are many laws which determine the things that your Council can do but if you're really interested, the best one to get you started is the Local Government Act of 1972, which you can find on a website at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/contents)



### BOOKING ADMINISTRATOR and CARETAKER FOR THE HALL

My name is Judith Challis and I am a resident of Coddenham. I have recently been appointed as the Booking Administrator and Caretaker for the Coddenham Community and Sports Hall.

I welcome all enquiries and bookings. Favourable rates are given to Coddenham residents.

You can contact me at [coddenhamccc@gmail.com](mailto:coddenhamccc@gmail.com) or telephone me on 07729206532. Thank you.



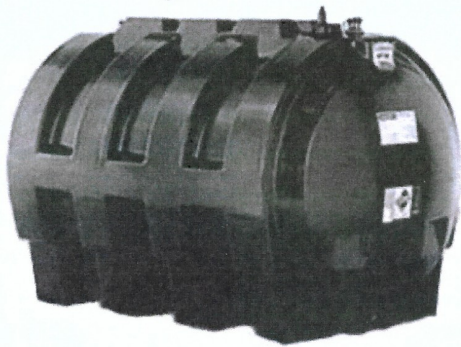
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