



Coddtenham Parish Council Newsletter

A warm welcome from your Parish Council. Working for You

Spring 2022

We want to improve and widen community involvement and plan to use a range of ways to tell residents what's going on and for you to let your Councillors know what matters.

New ideas: fortnightly drop-in surgeries and 30 minute informal question and answer sessions prior to each Parish Council meeting. Details on Parish websites, social media and notice boards too.

We're always open to new ways so please give us your views and ideas

'Drop ins' , Every 2 weeks beginning June 7th, 2-4pm in the Post Office area of the Coddtenham Shop
Come and ask your questions from 7pm at our Parish Meetings-next one July 14th

The Coddtenham Centre

The **Coddtenham Centre** has not only survived post Covid, but thrived, now offering every week, Badminton, Ballroom Dancing, High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), Nordic Walking, Pilates, Tai Chi and Yoga. Outdoors, there is a wonderful recreation ground, children's play area including zip wire, outdoor gym, bowling green, basketball, and tennis courts. Indoor (soft) tennis and table tennis are also available. Every month there are visits from the Choose Refills van, the Coffee Station, and the Mobile Pizza Co. Lots of individual events are being hosted too; All the details are available at www.thecoddtenhamcentre.co.uk or <https://www.coddtenham-parish.uk/some-more-dates-for-your-diary/> or call 07720 206532

Equally important, **St Mary's Church** has been getting back into its stride with regular services, whilst offering occasional Zoom facilities for ease of access. Regular coffee and cake Saturday mornings are back, the next one on the 14th May from 10am – 12pm. The **Coddtenham Country Club** also offers a great meeting point. Welcoming new members and guests for a low annual fee, it also hosts regular events. On the evening of 27th May there will be a Music Quiz.

We can't close a Coddtenham 'What's On' this year without a big name-check, for the **Queens Platinum Jubilee**, starting with Coddtenham's part in the **Jubilee Torch Relay** on the 21st May at 10.50am. Events continue with a **Clean for the Queen** litter-pick from 10am on the 28th May and the ceremonial lighting of the **Jubilee Beacon** at St Mary's Church at 9.30pm on the 2nd June, followed by a peal of the church bells. The highlight will be **THE BIG LUNCH** at the Coddtenham Centre from noon to 4pm on the 5th June, with non-stop entertainment and bar, culminating in a short thanksgiving for the reign of Her Majesty. Tickets from the Community Shop sponsors, suppliers and of course volunteers, who all make sure that Coddtenham certainly has, 'lots going on'!

Budget and Precept

Your Parish Council has been focussed on keeping the increase in local tax as low as possible. For the year 2022/23 our Budget totals just over £45,500 and the Precept is just over £32,200- a 2.4% reduction on the previous year.

The Parish Council still has a £78,678 Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) debt until 2030, incurred through the building of the Coddtenham Centre. The debt is repaid at £13,135 per year for which the Council has sufficient monies in the budget for this payment not to impact on Council Tax, via the precept. Historically there has also been a liability of £11,676 for business rates on the Coddtenham Centre. The Council has now received the good news that the rateable value has been reduced and therefore no rates are in fact due. The £3892 already paid to MSDC can be repaid to the Parish Council

The street lighting in Coddtenham is costing significantly more this year than budgeted due to the increase in the cost of electricity; in the budget for 2023/2024 there will need to be a significant uplift to deal with these price rises.

The Parish Council continues to support the Coddtenham Centre by way of a grant, which is £8,250 for the year 2022/2023.

What's going on in your Parish ?

QUIET LANES

Quiet Lanes is a project led by a voluntary group which supports Parishes across the county to identify and designate suitable rural lanes as 'Quiet Lanes'. The hope is to encourage the use of more active forms of travel such as walking, cycling and horse-riding to improve people's physical and mental wellbeing. .

More information and a map of the current sites can be found at 'Quiet Lanes Suffolk' (<https://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk>). A nearby example of a Quiet Lane is Bulls Road/Church Lane outside Hemingstone Church which has recently gained designation as a Quiet Lane by Hemingstone Parish Council. One road in



Coddenham Fete 10th September 2022 12 noon – 4.00 p.m.

In preparation for the Fete we are asking you to consider donations of Bric-a-Brac, Raffle Prizes, Tombola Prizes and Wine for the Wine or Water Lucky Dip. The schedule for the Produce Show is underway and details will be published shortly. At this stage the collection point for donations is Alan West, Valley View, School Road, Coddenham, Tel. No. 01449 760327 who is happy to be contacted regarding any suggestions, queries, offers of help etc.

Info Box-Unicorn head in village tardis"

Coddenham's original red phone box is now a village communication hub. Originally bought by the Parish, now refurbished with a new O.S map and noticeboard, it is clean & bright once more. This "tardis" holds footpath maps, leaflets, posters & flyers for local amenities. The paperback book exchange has a high turnover of titles with the occasional surprise! The recent donation of a large plaster of Paris head being such!! Next time you are passing look inside our Info box to see "what's on," grab your next enjoyable



read or donate your last one!

Broomhill & Mill Hill

Our community green spaces of Broomhill and Mill Hill are familiar to dog walkers, ramblers, and "lockdown" exercisers. These areas are little jewels of biodiversity where nature flourishes and a walk along the pathways cannot fail to lift your spirits.

Many have fond memories of February Broomhill volunteer working parties. Bramble clearing, hedge cutting, bonfire tending and CAKE eating. COVID restrictions have prevented working parties for the past 2 years and despite the valiant solitary efforts of Ian Jefferies in cutting and clearing, parishioners have expressed dismay at the rapid expansion of the brambles.

The Parish Council working together with the CCRG and with funding from the Day Foundation and Gardemaui Trust aim to engage the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to conduct a botanical survey of all Coddenham key community green spaces. This will take place in July and include Broomhill, Mill Hill, Three Cocked Hat, Burial ground, and Nucleus plantation. The subsequent report will be the basis of a long sought future management plan to ensure that key habitats and species are able to thrive.

In the autumn, the aim is for volunteer working parties to resume helping maintain not only Broomhill and Mill Hill, but to also work together caring for all Coddenham's community green spaces. The essential ingredient for a volunteer working party is VOLUNTEERS! So, make a calendar note to get your gardening gauntlets at the ready. The Parish council are also very aware of parishioners concerns regarding the signs that were installed on Broomhill and Mill Hill in January. The signs were removed in April whilst the correctness of the wording used is investigated and parishioners will be consulted before any signs are reinstated.

Allotments

Coddenham Parish Council were generously gifted an area of land adjacent to the Love Lane footpath to be managed as allotments.

For over a decade fortunate allotment holder have enthusiastically tended the ten plots digging, cultivating, and occasionally harvesting. "Allotmenters" are a friendly, sociable bunch who help each other, sharing tips, seeds, and plants. If you are interested in having an allotment, have a look over the hedge next time you walk to Broomhill along the Love Lane footpath and have a chat to the allotment holders. However, **be warned**, you may find that the conversation may quickly turn to composting and slugs!



SHOP SPOTLIGHT – CODDENHAM SHOP

Amazing to think the village shop has been a shop since the late C17th!

Following brief closure it's now a bustling award winning Community Shop and a hub for the village. Offering everything from basic everyday groceries to the most delicious of treats, gifts, crafts, plants and much more. The in-store café with its tasty menu provides a great place to meet up with friends or simply have a quiet coffee. The Shops' success is testimony to a small committee led by Rod Stanley-Bell with the drive, vision and determination to secure the future of the village shop. Manager Bliss Marshall and her team of 'on the job' trained volunteers run the store.

More volunteers always needed ,Be part of this success story

St Mary's Churchyard

This continues to be an amazing asset to our village, which the Parish Council have the responsibility to maintain. A recent visitor to the village commented that 'it was one of the loveliest she had seen' This is thanks to the volunteers who tidy it but don't inhibit the growth of wild plants that support a host of insects, birds and mammals. Paths are kept clear and contractors mow the grass annually, once flowering season ends. Aris-



Parish Survey

From the outset the reformed Parish Council made a clear decision to work together with the Parish's voluntary and charitable organisations for the benefit of parishioners. To this end immediately it re-joined the Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG) as an active member, with Councillor Nick Mills the Council's representative.

With the pandemic starting to recede as a threat to our daily lives, CCRG was keen to survey parishioners and develop a Community Plan, something that hadn't been done since 2000 and which would be difficult without Parish Council involvement. The input of Parish households and a clear view of how we need to develop services and amenities was seen as vital to all Parish organisations, including the Parish Council. It's vital that the Community Plan is driven by the people who live here. Nick says *"Although I've had to undertake the lion's share of the heavy lifting to move the survey and plan forward, it does play to my strengths and goes some way to make up for my previous lack of contribution during the 19 years I've lived in Coddenham and for the Parish Council's limited involvement previously. Input and review have come from each member of the CCRG and taking it forward will very much be a joint activity, shared with parishioners on a regular basis"*.

The intention is to hand Survey Questionnaires to all households immediately after the Jubilee celebrations, for completion by the end of June. Filling in surveys does take a bit of time, but they are an excellent way for households to provide their views and help 'shape the future'. A dozen households from across the Parish have kindly tested the Survey to ensure it is meaningful and that it is straightforward to complete. Feedback led to some tweaks to format and wording and the addition of a further question. Overall, the response was very positive.

Road Safety

This Parish Council has spent a great deal of time and effort in trying to identify ways of ameliorating the considerable local impacts associated with traffic on the B1078 through the village.

Councillors have continued to report, through Lorrywatch, numerous infringements of the HGV restriction westbound through the village. Suffolk County Council Trading Standards administer the enforcement of the weight limit with no tangible success.

We have prepared and submitted substantial objections to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the potential impact of the likely generation through the village for many years.

We have also prepared and submitted detailed reasons why the review being conducted by Suffolk County Council (SCC) into their Designated Lorry Route plan should exclude the identification of the B1078 through Coddendam as a preferred route for HGV movements.

We have constantly complained about the lack of any enforcement of the 20mph limit. The most recent records of the SID along School Road show an average of 25 mph and a top speed of 54 mph.

Earlier this year we were encouraged to submit to SCC suggestions for possible actions by that Council, to ease congestion, assist highway safety to protect buildings from vehicle strikes, and, in particular, to try and improve pedestrian safety. We have put forward a number of ideas including improving road markings, the installation



From your Chair, Jan Fawdry

The current Council consists of ten councillors with seven of these being recently co-opted on to the council; there is still one vacancy. The recent co-options followed the resignation of three councillors, including the Chair and Vice-Chair. Going forward the Council will be working collaboratively with various groups in the village and hold surgeries fortnightly in the Community Shop, starting in June 2022. The surgeries will enable parishioners to come and ask questions and raise points with a councillor. The councillors allocated to work with the various groups/who have certain areas of responsibility are as follows:

Cllr Whyte	Community Shop (Sue)
Cllr Mills	Coddendam Community Response Group (CCRG), Coddendam Centre (Nick)
Cllr Soanes	Broom Hill, Mill Hill, allotments and footpaths (Jane)
Cllr Stanley-Bell	Broom Hill, Mill Hill, allotments and footpaths ,Gardemau Trust (Joanne)
Cllr Kenning	Website (Mike)
Cllr Burgess	Suffolk Association of Local Councils Representative (Isabel)
Cllr Groom	St Mary's Churchyard maintenance, Broom Hill, Mill Hill, allotments and footpaths, Highways (Roy)
Cllr Denning	Day Foundation, Highways (Rob)
Cllr Thompson	Highways (Ian)

Remember Don't forget the Drop Ins!!

2-4pm fortnightly from June 7th in the Post Office area of the Coddendam Shop

At 7pm at each Parish Council Meeting next one July 14th at the Community Centre