



COMMUNITY NEWS

CODDENHAM-PARISH.UK

NEW YEAR 2025

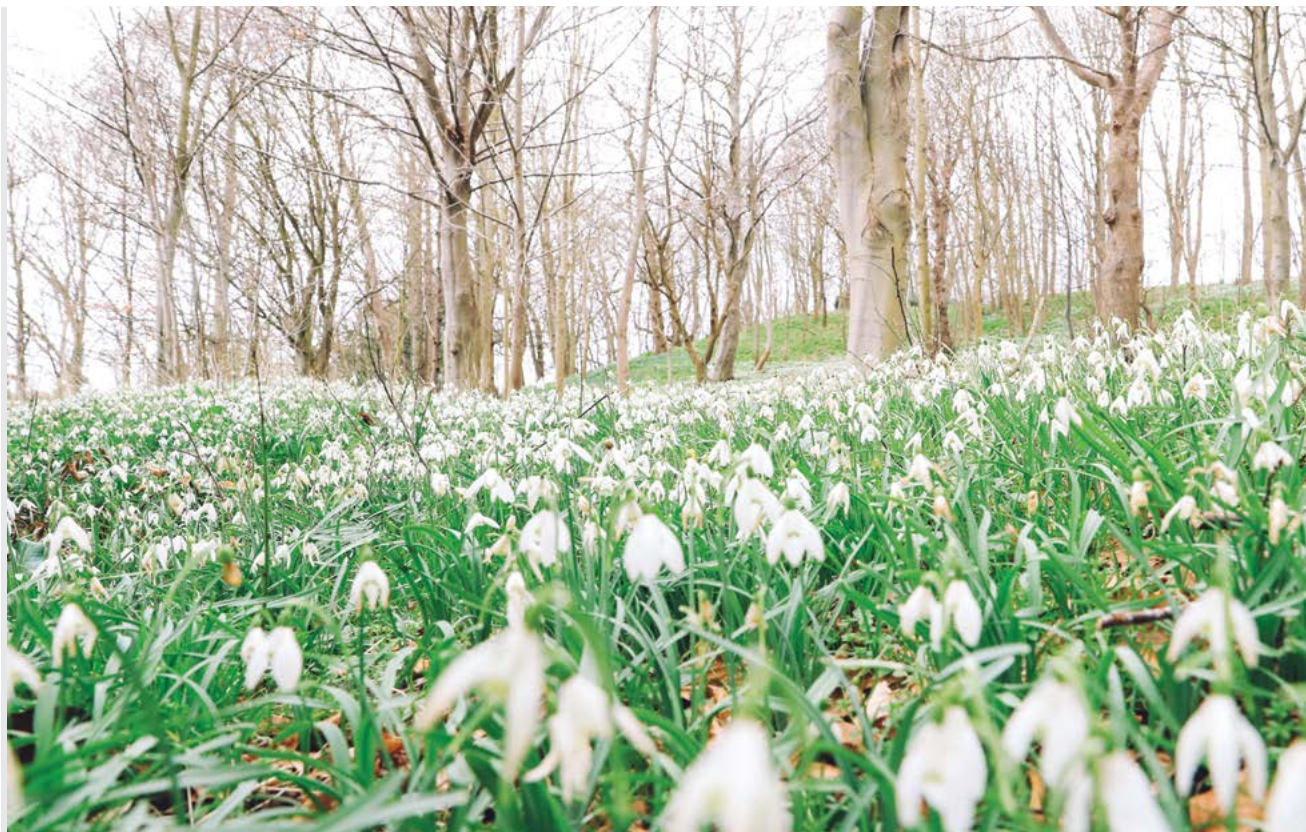


Image: Gergie Kerr

From the Coddenham Community Response Group Chair

On behalf of the Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG) may we wish you a Very Happy New Year.

The Group has now been running for nearly 5 years; created in order to coordinate community response during the Covid pandemic, the CCRG now serves a new purpose – coordinating events and providing support for the village organisations.

The website – www.coddenham-parish.uk continues to provide information about village events and is supported financially by CCRG member organisations, advertising and grants. Each organisation has its own pages where information about the Groups can be located. Event information can be found on the front page. We also advertise events in the surrounding area. If you would like to include information about an event please email - support@coddenham-parish.uk

It has been a busy year for the village organisations; **St Mary's Church** has been fundraising for vital repairs, **The Coddenham Centre** has hosted some exciting events and launched some new fitness classes, the **History Club** has created a permanent display space in the church, the **Community Shop** has welcomed two new supervisors, new Post Office staff and found two new suppliers for bread and cakes, the Parish Council has carried out a Housing Survey, the Gardemau Trusts have supported lots of local people and organisations financially, The Day Foundation has refurbished some of its properties, the Parish Council and Coddenham Centre have

recently launched highly successful community lunches - all of this is made easier by the support that the organisations give each other and the support of the community and its fantastic volunteers.

We always include 'The Environment' on our agendas. CCRG is committed to helping the community to become 'greener'. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place and we all feel a responsibility to keep it that way. The Reuse, Recycle, Reduce events, a Parish Council initiative, at The Coddenham Centre has provided a forum to spread the environmental message and will continue in 2025.

If you know of anyone moving into the village, the CCRG has created a 'Welcome to Coddenham' brochure for new arrivals. Please contact – support@coddenham-parish.uk if you know someone who would like one.

Finally exciting news for 2025, the Coddenham Fete will return on 13th July. Rachel Carter is organising the fete with support from CCRG members. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Rachel - rachel.coddenhamfete@gmail.com

Debbie McDonnell
Current Chairperson

The Year Ahead Local events for your diary

January	24th	Soup Social
	26th	Annual General Meeting
	31st	Community Lunch
February	8th	George Egg Show
	TBA	Valentine's Quiz
	18th	Talk - Finding Out About History Through Old Newspapers
March	28th	Soup Social
	1st	Coddenham Quiz Night
	8th	3Rs (Spring Cleaning/Decluttering)
	15th	Fairtrade Coffee Morning
	18th	Talk - Did the Sewers Save Lives.
	21st	Soup Social
	22nd	Pink Party
April	28th	Community Lunch
	9th	Annual General Meeting
	13th	Sunday Brunch
	15th	Talk - The Medieval Aisled Hall.
	18th	Mini-beer festival 18th-21st
	19th	Coffee Morning
	28th	Annual Parish Meeting
	May	3rd
8th		VE Day Anniversary – Beacon lighting
10th		Coffee Morning
10th		VE Day Anniversary – Fish Supper
11th		Hospital Band Concert
14th		History Club Coach Trip to Flatford
21st		Annual Parish Council Meeting
June		14th
	17th	Talk - The Eyes Of The Few - The Story Of Bawdsey
July	8th	Parish Council Meeting
	12th	Coffee Morning
	13th	Coddenham Fete
August	10th	Coffee Morning
September	3rd	Parish Council Meeting
	13th	Coffee Morning
	16th	Talk - Events & Celebrations Shrubland Hall 1840 - 1860
October	TBA	Flower Festival
	11th	Coffee Morning
	21st	Talk - Tea For The British
November	TBA	Raedwald Concert
	1st	3Rs (Food Waste and planning for Christmas)
	7th	Community Lunch
	8th	Coffee Morning
	12th	Parish Council Meeting
December	18th	Annual General Meeting and Talk - Death, Sex and Drugs
	5th	Community Lunch
	13th	Coffee Morning
	TBA	Co-op Band Concert

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

Coddenham Community Shop

Still crazy after all these years (with apologies to Paul Simon)

Yes, we made it – 5 years and still going strong, thanks to the great support of our many customers. And yes, we did have a bit of a celebration in September (with a cake and possibly a glass of fizz or two) to mark the occasion and to say particular thanks to all our volunteers and supporters.

It's fair to say that over the 5 years, the secret of our success has been having a team of volunteers, committee and staff working together all committed to support our customers and growing the business to ensure its long-term viability in what has been a challenging rollercoaster ride – but also with a lot of fun thrown in.

And this year has seen more of the same. Alongside all the cost increases, appalling weather and the good old road closures sent to try us, the highlight has been the appointment of our two new supervisors Hannah and Diana who joined us in Spring and quickly made their mark.



They have settled into their roles well and become real assets, contributing considerably to our success. We have also had a number of new and returning volunteers joining the team – so overall, we must be doing something right!

So to Christmas. Our regularly changing window displays have become a firm favourite in the village, almost entirely down to the great work of our volunteer Helen Irving – and Christmas this year has been one of the best – so look out Mr. Lewis and Mr. Selfridge. We also had a bit of an experiment with our Christmas Shopping Afternoon on 28th November which worked very well. It proved a great opportunity for customers to come and choose from our selection of Christmas goodies in a relaxed atmosphere (with glass of mulled wine in hand) – and a lovely way to bring people together to buy – definitely doing more of this in 2025!

Thank you again for supporting your Community Shop in 2024 – looking forward to seeing even more of you in 2025... and beyond.

Rod Stanley-Bell - Chair



From The Day Foundation

The charity set up by Jack, Mary and Rosabella Day some thirty years ago continues to flourish.

With the current trustees aided, abetted and driven by the directions given to them for the benefit of Coddenham and the surrounding villages, and the work of an exceptional manager and administrator, we continue to explore ways of providing help and assistance to those in need. In the last year we have renovated, refreshed and restored to pristine condition the properties that became available, welcoming new residents to the Foundation.

The finances hold steady and allow work and improvement to be instructed without delay, and we are proud of the work undertaken by a dedicated team in the gardens which delivers a setting of peace and calm appreciated by all who live, work or visit Mary Day Close.

Amongst many meetings, lectures and demonstrations in the Day Room, we were pleased to welcome trustees, clerks and residents in October from a wide range of charities involved with the Almshouse Association, under whose umbrella guidance we operate.

This has become increasingly important with political parties seeking to increase the opportunity to allow or encourage a Right to Buy, which is specifically excluded for properties arranged through the Association. We received many positive comments on the meeting arranged, including one from the clerk of a large and ancient Suffolk charity to say she had 'almshouse envy' for what we had been able to create.

We appear to remain the most recently developed almshouse charity in the country for which our constant refrain when opportunities occur is 'What would the Day Family have done?' If we can stick to their principles the trustees have every confidence that the charity will continue to provide support to the people of Coddenham as set out so clearly by the founders.

Sylvia Bickers, Rob Denning, Helen Norris, Tim Thomas, Simon Pott and Claire Martin, manager.

Look out for more community news on the website www.coddenham-parish.uk and in our next printed newsletter due Summer 2025

The Coddenham Village History Club

Coddenham village was different in many ways 100 years ago but in some ways just the same.

The following gives a taste of what life was like at the time.

In 1924, Coddenham was a very self-contained village with trades covering all the needs of the village people. The grocery shop which was also the place for drapery and hardware, a baker and a confectioner, more than one butcher, an egg dealer, the post office, a newsagent and stationer, fish and chip fryer, a tailor and a dressmaker, a boot repairer and more.

Then there were the tradesmen: wheelwright, blacksmith and saddler. For relaxing there was the Crown Inn and the Dukes Head. A policeman and a doctor. In this year there was a new bus to replace the carriers' cart which transported people and goods to Ipswich.

100 Years ago, Christmas in the village was a very special time. Dr Addison, who lived at the Shrubberies, had a large Christmas tree in his barn where he would distribute treats for the children of the village, whilst at the Village Shop Millie Gudgein would cater for the adults. She ran a Christmas Club which was funded by the Gardemau Trust and would order extra sheets, towels, tablecloths, etc. ready for people who would want them. The shop window would be decorated and a lovely display made up of orange boxes in tiers.

The weather in December 1924 was unsettled. Mild and very wet towards the end of the month. Stormy with frequent strong winds and gales. The land was waterlogged. Mist and fog and a lot of cloud prevalent, but it was also one of the sunniest Decembers on record. (from the Monthly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office). Not much changes!

The Coddenham Village History Club has eight interesting talks arranged between February and November 2025 plus a coach outing. Annual membership is just £10 and is open to all.



Coddenham School pupils



Local farm workers



George Miles of Hill Farm

Volunteering

The late Dr Michael Mosley recommended 'volunteering' as being good for personal well-being, as well as contributing to a community and helping others

Coddenham has been fortunate in having an army of volunteers over the years, who have and still do contribute to making Coddenham a great place to live. As the years pass the volunteering team's membership changes and new faces join, adding to the general camaraderie from participating in the community.

Community volunteering doesn't have to be regular or time-consuming. Despite busy lives, most of us have a few hours we can give up every now and again. There are various opportunities for volunteering in Coddenham.

A one-off support, such as helping to maintain one of our green-spaces, collecting litter or supporting an event at The Coddenham Centre. This type of support often comes with coffee, cake or a free ticket!

Undertake a regular 'shift' of a few hours in the Community Shop or at the Country Club

Contribute to the delivery of a community event. In 2025 we have the parish fete. Could you be a member of the fete committee?

Help run one of the parishes' entities, through becoming a parish councillor or as a trustee of The Coddenham Centre or a committee member at the Community Shop. These are more time-consuming roles but can be very rewarding.

If you'd like to know more, with no obligation, please e-mail support@coddenham-parish.uk or contact Maggie, the parish clerk at: clerk.coddenhamp@gmail.com or call her on 07548 152181.

The Coddenham Centre

For the fifth year running, so much at The Coddenham Centre has been about collaboration and fostering unity

From Trustees managing the Centre with employees Gail and Charmian, to working alongside our volunteers and the many businesses that provide weekly activities.

It has been particularly satisfying to see the Coddenham Parish Council stepping forward to work with us on a number of initiatives. A 2019 commitment to kitchen equipment was completed to coincide with a further increase in kitchen activity, including jointly managed community lunches that built on our 'Cooked in Coddenham' and 'Soup Social' initiatives with Mid Suffolk District Council.

We collaborated with yet more kitchen startups, providing low-cost facilities and flexibility. The same approach applied to our new yoga and meditation classes, where Gail & Trustees worked hard to get them started at the Centre.

Our Gold Carbon Charter Award was not only a collaboration with Suffolk County Environmental Strategy Team, but also with the support of our Local District Councillors.

Continuing to build on the Centre's successful environmental strategy, Parish Councillors Nick Mills & Jane Soanes led the 'Three R's' (Reduce, Recycle, Reclaim) events with us and local, regional and community support.

We were pleased to host several litter picks with CPC and were grateful for the supply of additional picnic tables to serve our recreation ground.

Our collaboration with the British Gymnastics Federation has provided free armchair classes for nearly two years.

We like to think that our wedding, christening and celebrations of lives, were also collaborations with the families we worked with to ensure these important moments, were a success.

Our collaborations with the Day Foundation and particularly the Gardemau Trusts with St Mary's Church, continue to successfully support our Babies & Toddlers Groups.

We must not forget the Coddenham Community Shop, who we worked with to provide the footfall of ticket buyers and even the occasional mercy dash for supplies!

We deliberately set out in 2019 to be a collaboration with the community we serve, and we like to think by doing so we have helped, alongside many others, put even more unity into our community. We hope you will continue to work with us in 2025 and wish you a wonderful New Year!

Chair, The Coddenham Centre CIO, on behalf of the Trustees & Team.

Coddenham Country Club

On behalf of the Coddenham County Club (CCC) may we wish you a Very Happy New Year.

Coddenham Country Club has been a social club in the village for well over 100 years. The Club has an operational Management Committee which is elected annually and holds regular meetings throughout the year to manage the facilities and to deal with the day to day running of it.

The Club is located in a beautiful timber framed building situated on the High Street. On the ground floor we have a pool table, which is free to play, and a snooker room housing an antique but mint condition table donated by Lord De Saumarez of Shrubland Hall to thank the men of Coddenham following the Great War. The snooker table can be booked by the hour for snooker or billiards.

The upstairs of the building holds our bar and social area including a dart board and seating areas. We sell ales and ciders from local breweries, lagers, wines and spirits, as well as non-alcoholic and soft beverages and snacks.

Regular events are held for all to attend including quizzes, poker and karaoke nights. We also welcome food vendors to park on our carpark for attendees of The Club and villagers to enjoy. Outside we have a seating area to enjoy during the warmer weather, as well as a covered seating area.

We have supported the local darts team and also take part in events within the local community. We continue to support charities such as Breast Cancer Care with the popular 'Pink Party'. Our events are promoted in the village shop, outside the CCC and on social media.

People of all ages regularly use the facilities and as always, families and dogs are always welcome. We will advertise up and coming events for which we hope to see you all and appreciate the continued support. We look forward to another busy year and to continue to play an important role within the village.

Our general current opening hours are:

(times may vary and will be advertised)

Saturday	3-11 pm
Sunday	3-7 pm
Monday	6-9 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	6-9 pm
Friday	6-11 pm

Creating the Greenest County

Coddenham Cares

Suffolk is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Coddenham continues to play its part in a variety of ways. The Coddenham Centre set out to be a community exemplar and in 2024 achieved a Gold 'Carbon Charter' award for a huge range of initiatives including a 91% reduction in its carbon footprint since 2020. The Community Shop has sought to reduce its footprint with LED lighting and other initiatives. St Mary's Church completed a successful carbon audit and CoFe accreditation. The Day Foundation, already an adopter of air source heat pumps is looking for ways to further monitor its carbon outputs, while the Country Club is conducting its own carbon audit to be published this year. Coddenham Parish Council have led a series of Three R's events (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) with the Coddenham Centre, with more scheduled in 2025. An integral part of the Community Plan is a Green Spaces Group, continuing to care for our countryside. Last but by no means least, a locally based Community Interest Company, Central Suffolk Community Energy is working across the Ten Villages and Debenham, to share initiatives and support the domestic shift from fossil fuels.

The smallest contribution helps, if you need support or guidance with your own projects, go to www.coddenham-parish.co.uk or csceuk.org

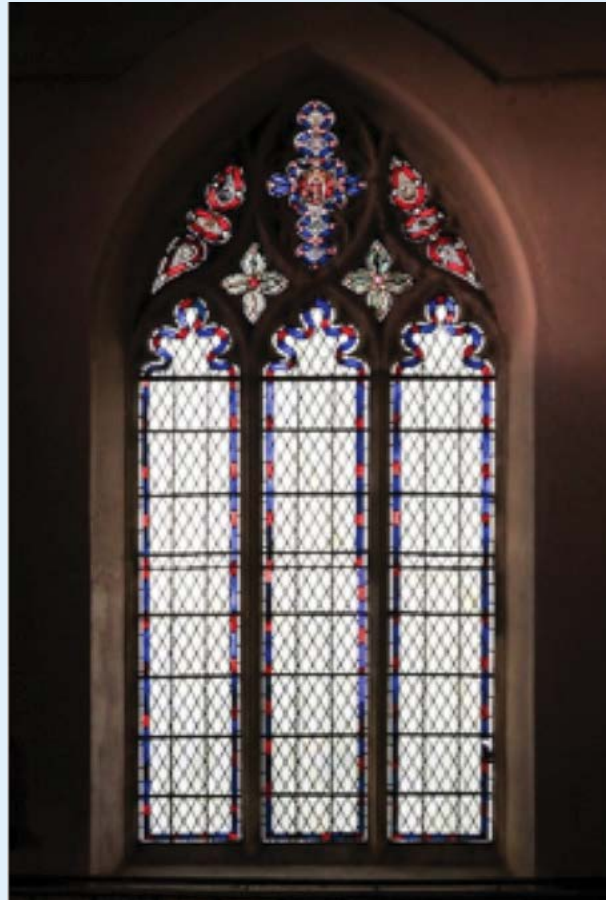


St Mary's Church

The congregation at St Mary's wish everyone a very Happy New Year and would like to thank the community for its support in 2024.

We saw a major fundraising campaign for repairs to our beautiful church building. The final fundraiser of the year was the East of England Co Op Band Christmas Concert which was a 'sell out'. All our events, as well as the monthly coffee mornings, have been well supported, and with match funding, the appeal total now stands at £32000. We have made 2 grant applications and hopefully, if these are successful, we should be able to commence work in Spring. If you would still like to contribute donations for sponsoring 'quarries' (the small panes of glass in the west window) can still be made via Tim the Treasurer – tim.thomas100@btinternet.com

The search for a new incumbent is well under way and we hope to interview for a new vicar for the North Bosmere Benefice in February. Until the new appointment is made our Sunday service times will be variable. Please check the Notice Sheet on the Coddenham parish website to find out where services are being held each week.



Gardemau Trusts

On behalf of the trustees of the Coddenham Gardemau Trusts, we'd like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year for 2025! We hope you had a lovely Christmas.

The last 12 months have seen a significant increase in requests for help to our three trusts – sadly, a sign of the times, I think. Happily, we have been able to meet all these applications for grants, at the same time as contributing £20,000 towards the St Mary's Church Restoration Appeal and significant sums to Stonham Aspal Primary and Debenham High Schools.

For much more detail on the origins, history, objectives and current activity of the trusts, please see recent articles in local publications and the community website.

We normally have five trustees and a (non-voting) Clerk. The Rector of Coddenham is ex officio a trustee but, since the retirement of the Rev Philip Payne at the end of the summer, the post has been vacant. I'd like to thank Philip once again for his sterling work as a trustee, and as leader of a large and varied benefice. We wish him and Mary a long and happy retirement.

I hope Coddenham will soon have a new Rector and we will again have five Gardemau trustees!

In the meantime, we look forward to another busy year. We will be working with our partners in the Coddenham Community Response Group to achieve the best for the people of Coddenham. Highlights for 2025 include the planned Fete for this summer, the progress of restoration work at St Mary's and our continuing efforts to increase the number of affordable houses in the village.

With all our very best wishes for 2025,

David McDonnell – Chairman
Tim Thomas – Treasurer
Ray Collins – Trustee
Ann Gudgin – Trustee
John Pelling – Clerk

Coddenham Parish Council News

Details have been published in the accompanying, dedicated newsletter.

If you have not received a copy, please contact the Parish Clerk at: clerk.coddenhampc@gmail.com or telephone 07548152181.

Need a Lift or have room in your Car?

Getting to and from Coddenham can sometimes be a challenge, particularly if you don't have a car.

Did you know there is an informal lift sharing facility on the community website? Many of us travel by car, to and from the village with spare seats. So, if you need a lift locally, or are travelling somewhere and have a spare place in your vehicle, please post your request or offer to the comment box.

Be kind to others, be kind to the planet. Go to www.coddenham-parish.uk/car-share-or-need-a-lift/ on our community website.

Coddenham Cares!

Time travel with your community website

Your community website now has five years of Coddenham life online, with events, news of our neighbours, environmental initiatives and much more.

All posts are retained, and you can scroll through or just search for a subject or mention by going to the search box on the home page. All community organisations also have their home page, including the History Club pages for a glimpse beyond five years.

Don't forget, you can always comment on any post (your email address stays hidden) and we all welcome constructive feedback or more information or recollections. You can even advertise for a small fee or volunteer your own news. We can also share local departures/ obituaries or a new arrival! Email support@coddenham-parish.uk

So make the most of your community website and regularly drop in to www.coddenham-parish.uk

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Support to combat isolation

We all go through times in our life when we feel lonely. Often it can happen when we least expect it. Some of us cope with it better than others.

However, all of us need interaction with others even if we're happy in our own company. Circumstances can dictate situations where our support networks are stretched or they disappear. The covid-19 pandemic was an extreme example.

Coddenham prides itself on being a community. In the pandemic for example it came together, formed the Coddenham Covid Response Group – since refashioned as the **Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG)** – and supported those vulnerable members of the community who were shielding and needed shopping or someone to check on them.

A charity dedicated to reducing loneliness, The Marmalade Trust includes suggestions on its website as to 'how to feel less lonely'. It starts with 'being kind to yourself', followed by telling someone and with their help, joining with others. It is not a one speed, one path solution, but a guide that will work differently for each of us. It's worth a read.

Locally we encourage residents to join in if they want to. In addition to the traditional role of the church, **St.Mary's** has regular coffee mornings. Just turn up and grab a coffee and a piece of cake, making it known that you'd like to chat and you'll be welcomed. Alongside, The Coddenham Centre runs regular **Soup Socials** and **Community Lunches**. Both are designed to encourage attendance by everybody including those who are alone. Both have proved to provide opportunities for residents to join in other activities, including carpet bowls, armchair exercise and badminton sessions at **The Coddenham Centre**.

In Coddenham, we are also fortunate to have the **Day Foundation** and the **Gardemau Trusts**. Both will assist residents, where they can to reduce feeling isolated.

Volunteering can be a great way of meeting fellow residents and helping personal well-being, whilst contributing to the community. In Coddenham, volunteering takes many forms and can start small and stay small or grow with time availability and confidence. Please see the volunteering article elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you would like to talk to someone outside Coddenham, **Citizens Advice Bureau** is an excellent place to start. The Stowmarket office of CAB maybe reached at **01449 676060**, Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 3.30pm and on Fridays from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

Are you on the List?

The 'Coddenham Cascade' is a long-established community mailing list, run by former resident and now neighbour, Julian Hall.

It's a source of occasional information from Coddenham organisations and/or items of (local) public interest.

The list is confidential and never shared with third parties. Your details can be removed at any time, on request. Contact coddenhamvillage@gmail.com with your preferred address, to be added, and please tell your friends!

Our local charities

The Day Foundation

Registered Charity 800930

Contact: Haysel House, Mary Day Close IP6 9SR or speak to Claire Martin. Telephone 01449 761732.

The Gardemau Trusts

Registered Charity 230602

Contact: David McDonnell, Chair, Rose Cottage, Barham Green IP6 0QQ

The **Coddenham Centre** is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered Charity 1183244