

The Coddendam Community Response Group (CCRG) – Report for Annual Parish Meeting May 2021

The CCRG was set up in March 2020 in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, as the ‘Coddendam Covid 19 Response Group’, after villagers had asked the Parish Council to take responsibility for leading efforts to support the community. The main bodies in the village decided to establish a means to co-ordinate and support each other’s efforts to assist villagers during an unprecedented crisis. Members initially included the Coddendam Centre, Community Shop, Church and Parochial Church Council, Day Foundation, Gardemau Trusts and Parish Council. The Parish Council ceased to be represented in September 2020, but the Country Club, History Club and Football Club have joined the Group.

The CCRG has had a very busy year. Highlights have included setting up a Community Website within a week of the Group’s establishment, providing a central helpline and a ‘Telephone Tree’ ring-round system, publication of newsletters, provision of food parcels, financial assistance to residents in difficulties, morale-boosting gifts, free deliveries from the shop and the organising of a range of village events when restrictions have permitted.

CCRG and its members have won a number of awards and accreditations for their work supporting the community during the pandemic and have featured several times on local radio, and in both local and national press. Their work has also been recognised by a number of grants. These have in turn enabled further initiatives.

Sadly, although Covid infection rates are rapidly declining at the time of writing and the successful vaccination programme gives hope for the future, it is unlikely that the pandemic is going to disappear any time soon. CCRG will continue to support the village and, in (hopefully) more ‘normal’ times, act as a means for Coddendam organisations to work together to maximum benefit of everyone.

Covid is the most immediate threat to our community, but there is another, possibly more serious one, at least in the longer-term – the Climate Emergency. Mindful of this, all member groups have agreed to consider the environmental impact of all we do and have already undertaken a number of ‘green’ measures.

More information on CCRG, including a summary of its activities and highlights over the past year, is available on the Coddendam Community Website (coddendam-parish.uk).

David McDonnell

Chairman CCRG