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LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL

*PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER*



NOVEMBER 2010

www.levington.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)

Hello and welcome to the November 2010 Parish Council newsletter.

We shall soon reach the end of another busy and successful year in the parish as 2010 draws to a close! I thought it would be useful to look back at some of the highlights of the past year. Well, some we could gladly forget. I don't suppose all of us, apart from the youngsters, will look back fondly at the long period of snowy and icy weather last January!! But since then the village has won another Silver Award in Anglia in Bloom 2010. A better way of looking back on our year is to come along to the annual illustrated show given by Derek Girling and David Pryke on Tuesday 7th December when you can also see our new digital projection equipment - Yes, Levington goes digital; but not 3D, just yet!! As for me, I was invited to attend the official opening by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, of the Affordable Housing (Field View) in Nacton on Thursday 14th October. This was our joint venture with Nacton Parish Council to provide affordable housing for people who had a contact with our Parishes.



Due to a family birthday gathering, I am unable to attend this year's Remembrance Day Service in St. Peter's Church. I am pleased to say that our Vice Chairman, David Pryke, will be laying a poppy wreath at our War Memorial on behalf of the Parish on Sunday 14th November. This year, with my family and other Levingtonians we visited the Normandy battlefields on 6 June and could begin to more fully understand the impact of D-Day, and the importance of freedom which flowed from this for our Country, and for much of Europe. On the evening of Remembrance Day, 11 November, Derek Girling and Phil Owen will be giving an illustrative talk on this significant event [details elsewhere in this Newsletter]. Please do come along to this, and help raise funds for The Royal British Legion. Can I thank all parishioners for their support during 2010 and wish you all a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

[David Long - Parish Council Chairman]

LEVINGTON'S SILVER SUCCESS AT



ANGLIA IN BLOOM 2010

Beautiful Levington scooped another successful Silver Award in the best small village category in this year's prestigious Anglia in Bloom Awards ceremony in Sudbury in September. Silver for the second year running and being judged on a very windy day when Operation Stack was on!



Cllr Pat Pryke receiving Award

The judges report read:

Despite a very windy day and many lorries using the Stack Area adjacent to the village, this did not deter the dedicated group of volunteers. This charming village, nestling within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, enjoys a natural beauty which has many delightful residential gardens blending with the natural environment. The village is small with a population of just 213 people, many of whom are actively involved on many committees including the 'Levington Bloomers' and the Parish Council's continuous support is evident from their achievements. There is a large wildlife conservation area which stretches down to the shoreline of the River Orwell and working alongside the Council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust the volunteers regularly carry out "litter picks" - a massive undertaking as all bags of rubbish need to be manhandled from the shoreline back to the village. Church Field and Trickers Wood which are owned by the Parish Council are managed by the Field Management Working Party many

of whom are "Bloomers". The team continues to nurture their links with the very supportive companies at Levington Business Park. Levington Bloomer volunteers are to be commended for their continued community involvement and care of the village which benefits everyone.

Areas of Achievement

- *Recently refurbished village hall with WI planted and maintained containers around the building*
- *Annual flower show with very old presentation cups replaced by new ones and a newly acquired trophy for the overall winner this year*
- *Colourful spring planting coupled with sustainable planting to give all year round displays in the Red House Walk area and spring planting around the village junction*
- *Residential gardens sympathetic to the natural beauty of the village*
- *Immaculate 10 acre grounds at OOCL including landscaping of restaurant garden*
- *Excellent support from OOCL Ltd. and Scotts Company Ltd*
- *Community involvement to clear the rubbish from the "Stack Area" when up to 300 lorries have moved on*
- *St. Peter's Church building and churchyard 'Friends' with over 50 volunteers to carry out maintenance*
- *Maintenance of Church Field and Trickers Wood*
- *Interpretation boards on River Orwell foreshore*
- *Excellent renovation of the War Memorial*

Areas for Improvement

- *Interpretation board with footpath map on Pilots Way*
- *Information board and planting of wild flowers in the Church Field and Trickers Wood area*
- *To keep community spirits intact, use initiative to include tried and tested local competitions as well as new ones.*

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE IN LEVINGTON WHO HELPED THE VILLAGE ACHIEVE ANOTHER SILVER AWARD.

**SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM MEETING:
LEVINGTON: 21ST SEPTEMBER 2010**

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) that deals with issues raised by residents of the 'Rural Parishes' (incl. Levington, Nacton, Bucklesham, Foxhall, Waldringfield and others) meets once every 3 months, on this occasion in our Village Hall. It is a public meeting open to all residents from any of the parishes. We are part of the bigger Felixstowe and District Safer Neighbourhood Team. The meeting was told about priorities for the whole district and we then addressed the issues raised by local residents. In particular community concerns about unwanted activity in the lay-bys on the Old A45 and on Nacton foreshore were discussed. Suffolk Constabulary's Diversity Officer explained that the police have to work to rules laid down by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and various courses of action were contemplated. However Inspector Steve Gallant said that there had been only one reported incident from this area in the last 12 months. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at a Community Panel Meeting the following week. At this subsequent meeting all the possible actions were discussed, but it was decided that nothing precipitous should be done: however the police would actively patrol the areas and all members of the public were asked to report any incident that might offend public decency.

Cllr. Ian Angus



JUST A REMINDER:

10.50am on Armistice Day 11th November at the War Memorial in St. Peter's churchyard for short service of prayers and two minute silence. And 2.45pm on Sunday 14th November for the village procession from the Village Hall to the church for the laying of poppy wreaths and crosses and the Remembrance Day service in the church.

EVERYONE WELCOME FROM HOMES AND BUSINESSES



DISRUPTION TO SERVICES IN BAD WEATHER

With last January's adverse weather in mind, and in case we get more snow this winter, a reminder that you can check out any disruption to services, be it bin collections, school closures, or other closures such as swimming pools/leisure centres at:

Suffolk Coastal District Council by accessing their:

Website: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Usually in adverse weather the information can be found on the front page of their website or you can

Telephone: **general enquiries on 01394 383789** or you can

Email: customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Normal opening times for Suffolk Coastal offices at Melton Hill, Woodbridge are:

8.45am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday.

8.45am to 4.45pm on Fridays.

Offices are closed on bank holidays.

They also operate an **emergency telephone service** outside of office hours. Call **07771 816535** and you will be put through to the duty officer.

Similarly, you can get the latest information from:

Suffolk County Council on school closures, bus services, gritting routes by accessing:

Website: www.suffolk.gov.uk or

Telephone: 0845 606 6067 or

Email: customerservice@csduk.com

We will also aim to put information on the front page of the Levington website: www.levington.org



MONDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR



The Monday morning coffee hour in the Village Hall will soon come to an end for this year but just for the time being, good weather permitting, there will be a one or two more. The last date will be announced via word of mouth and a notice on village noticeboards. So keep an eye out. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who came to the Monday morning coffee hour during the past few months. It was a pleasure to see you all there - a lively, friendly time to catch up, pass on news, chat and relax and enjoy a cup of coffee amongst friends and neighbours. A huge thank you to Len, Jo, Mags and June who week in week out make coffee hour happen. If you tried to add it all up you would lose count of the number of fresh loaves of bread they have baked for sale on the produce stall during the season, the hundreds of sausage rolls, scones, pies, quiches, meringues, and cakes also. So - thanks to the cooks and the coffee makers and the clearer uppers! You are much appreciated.

LEVINGTON WEBSITE

Don't forget to look at the Levington website www.levington.org if you want to see the newsletters in larger text and larger colour photographs.



Please support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - its not just about long-ago wars and veterans of old conflicts. The RBL is still actively supporting service personnel from the more recent conflicts such as Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those who served in Korea and in the two world wars. Wearing a poppy shows your support for the Legion's work as well as for our service personnel who need help because of their service to our country. Please wear your poppy with pride. Rosanne and Derek Girling and Louise Overbury are selling poppies in the village.

LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB



The next meeting of the Gardening Club will be
7.30pm WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER
in the Village Hall

*Topic: 'WINTER COLOUR IN THE GARDEN'
with Park Green Nurseries*

ALL WELCOME

Members £2.00 and non-members £3.00 includes
Refreshments, Raffle.

HARVEST SUPPER Friday 22nd October



This year a Harvest Supper with a difference! A 'harvest of the sea' theme was chosen with a fish and chip supper. Levington has long held Harvest Suppers as part of our community's celebration of the Harvest Festival. It is a very old and deep seated tradition of the community coming together to say thank you for a successful harvest. Again, this year, the event was organised by the Flower Show committee. As well as the two course meal there were table games to test the old brain cells and you would not believe how much fun the two rounds of Levington Super Bingo brings! The Harvest Supper always proves to be a great social night out for those who attend and any surplus income, after paying the expenses, always goes to a good cause. This year was no exception and a profit of £261 will go towards funding a few more new chairs with arms for the Village Hall. Many thanks to those who bought tickets for this annual event and, as always, our thanks to the organisers and helpers who ensured another successful evening.



Bingo underway!

GARDENING CLUB EVENING WITH DAVE COLE - THE GIANT VEGGIES MAN



Gardening Club evening - 15th September. Who could forget Dave Cole and his enthusiasm and skill for growing giant vegetables? When he exhibits at local Flower Shows the trestle tables must groan under the weight of his giant onions, parsnips, beetroot and swedes. Those attending the September meeting certainly had an entertaining evening and learnt a lot about growing such vegetables, surprisingly most of which are edible! But why grow big? Apart from the competitiveness at Shows it must be the challenge which requires a high degree of expertise and ingenuity.



VILLAGE HALL AGM date

The Village Hall Trustees will be holding the AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th November in the Village Hall. All welcome to attend.



WANTED ...CAN YOU HELP?

This is another request for your unwanted sleeping bags and blankets for the homeless in our area and also for warm men's clothing. We appealed last year and you came up trumps with your donations! However, if you can help again this year it would be much appreciated.

We also need knitting wool to knit jumpers for young children in Africa if you have any balls of wool going spare.

If you can help please contact: Jo Wenham, Lilac Cottage, Levington - Tel: 659509.

HALF WAY THERE! VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

We are having an excellent response to the questionnaires - 42 received back so far. So a big thank you to all those who have taken the trouble to complete them to assist the parish council in creating a Village Emergency Plan.

If you have not yet completed the Questionnaire Form and returned it to a Councillor, would you please do so as soon as possible so that we can assemble all the data.

Winter is coming and it is a good time to remind everyone to take whatever steps they think necessary to avoid being unprepared for a very cold snap. You will remember that snow came in November last year!



Do come along and join in
the Christmas village
services

**St Peter's Church
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**

4.00pm
Sunday 19 December
**CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT**

11.30pm
Friday 24 December
**CHRISTMAS EVE
MIDNIGHT SERVICE**
(with Roy Tricker)



FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S 2011 AGM

Early Warning!

As a general rule the Friends of St. Peter's hold their AGM on the last Thursday in March. However, to accommodate a 'cracking' good speaker at next year's AGM, the inimitable Roy Tricker, with a talk on 'Eccentric Clergymen', the date has been moved to Friday 8th April. So do make a note.

MORE GARDENING CLUB NEWS

As from the January 2011 meeting it has been decided to do away with the £5 yearly subscription and just charge £3 per meeting on attendance to everyone. The 2011 Gardening Club programme will be printed in the January Parish Council newsletter. This past year has seen some excellent speakers and outings. So don't miss out - come and experience a Gardening Club night in 2011.

DATE FOR THE DIARY - Next year's Flower Show will be held on Saturday 16th July 2011 at 3pm in the Village Hall.

AT THE FLOWER SHOW AGM - Election of Officers were as follows: Max Ralph (Chairman); David Long (Secretary); Marian Rose (Vice-Chairman); Max Ralph (Treasurer); Christine Bullard (Show-Day Secretary). Committee: Rosanne Girling, Doreen Ralph, Linda Sharp, Caroline Young, Michael Chalcroft and Barry Young. It was good to welcome Michael, a relatively new resident, onto the Committee as a committee member.



OPERATION STACK



Parish Chairman David Long and Vice Chairman David Pryke will attend a meeting of the Operation Stack Steering Group (all the agencies involved) on Tuesday 23rd November at Suffolk County Councils HQ, Endeavour House. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and review the options for the long term arrangement for Operation Stack. Suffolk County Council officers have been investigating two further options to mitigate the effects of Operation Stack on road users and local communities.



GETTING READY FOR WINTER!

Although the awful wintry conditions experienced last December and especially in January have not been the norm for a number of years should we be prepared for whatever this winter brings?

If you have a bread machine make sure you have up to date and enough stocks of flour, yeast, milk powder etc.

**Have you enough de-icer for the car? A snow ice scraper?
You might also need a small shovel and a snowbrush
Keep a blanket in the car**

Perhaps have a few cartons of long life milk in the store cupboard and some tinned vegetables such as beans, peas or baby sweetcorn. In very cold weather it is sometime difficult for growers to get the vegetables out of the ground and they become scarce.

POLICE AUTHORITY NEWS From County Councillor Patricia O'Brien

The County Councillor reported on the current financial situation which has prompted a review of how the Police Authority performs its role, with a view to reducing its budget. The new structure involves key changes to the how the Authority operates including a significant reduction in the number of scheduled meetings, therefore saving on expenditure through reducing travel, catering and printing costs. The coalition Government is replacing Police Authorities with Police and Crime Commissioners to oversee the workings of the Constabularies from May 2012.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 3rd NOVEMBER 2010

The Chairman welcomed the County Councillor and Pc Paul Smith and two residents. There were no pre-agenda items raised.

County Councillor's Report (Mrs O'Brien).

Mrs. O'Brien reported on the Comprehensive Spending Review announced on 20th October. She said, fortunately, SCC had been preparing for reductions in grant for some time and as a result were better placed to manage than some other councils. The 28% reduction in grant over the next four years was broadly in line with what was predicted last year and a vindication of the work SCC are doing to develop the New Strategic Direction. SCC's strategy is in line with government thinking that services paid by government do not have to be delivered by government. Thus alternatives to county council delivery were being looked at either with partners of other local authorities, police, health and voluntary sector. The County Council will know the extent of the grant cuts in December but some information is already to hand.

SCC need to save at least £110m over the next four years. The immediate task is to find £40m from next year's budget and work is underway across all departments to identify the best way of making these reductions with minimum impact on Suffolk residents. A divestment plan is being developed to put services outside the Council with the aim of providing new opportunities for Suffolk businesses and not-for-profit enterprises to deliver services previously run by the Council. SCC is currently engaging with its residents on the new Strategic Direction

District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer).

Mrs. Falconer was not able to attend the Parish Council meeting but sent her report in advance. She explained that the past few weeks had been exceptionally busy. There had been many meetings and functions to attend in her role as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council. On District Council matters her report noted that Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils now have a shared joint management structure - the two councils managed by one Chief Executive, one Head of Planning and an Audit Manager which will result in over £400,000 savings. On the Local Development Framework with the change of government and notifications on planning issues, the District is to revise its Core Strategy by going out to public consultation again for 8 weeks. The Core Strategy will eventually decide the overall level of new homes to be provided up to 2028.

FINANCE	<p>The external auditors had given the Parish Council's Return for year ended 31 March 2010 a clean audit. Bank balances reconciled to bank statements and reviewed by the finance group. Parish councillors received a financial schedule showing actual versus budget for the half year to 30 September 2010. This showed forecast for the year was within budgeted expectations. The Parish Council is attempting to keep the precept at the previous years' level. The precept for 2011/12 will need to be agreed and claimed by 31 January 2011. Income and payments were noted and agreed as was the Parish Clerk's salary and expenses.</p>
A14 Trunk Road Emergency Diversion Plan	<p>The Parish Chairman is to attend a meeting on this Plan on 1st December. Emergency diversion routes provide the public with a pre-planned, checked and agreed junction to junction diversion route that circumnavigates an incident which has resulted in the closure of the main carriageway. Any major incident/accident which closes the A14 near Levington could affect our locality as the slip road and Old A45 may well be used as an alternative route for A14 traffic. This Parish Council has concerns especially if Operation Stack is in place at the same time as any required diversion of traffic from the A14.</p>
VILLAGE FLAG	<p>The Parish Council agreed to fund a new St. George's Day flag which flies on the top of the church.</p>
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM	<p>Reported more fully elsewhere in this newsletter.</p>
VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN	<p>Parish councillors were encouraged by the number of questionnaires already returned and with a reminder in this newsletter hoped others would also find the time to respond.</p> <p>The local authority Emergency Plans Officer has offered to take parish councillors through an emergency table top exercise and this will be arranged.</p>

Planning Applications	(1)	C10/1914 - Walk Farm House - annexe/extension applied for [<i>Planning approval granted 16 September 2010</i>]
	(2)	C10/0544 - Railway line dualling time extension [<i>District Council approved extension to 2018 on 18/8/10</i>]
Planning	The Parish Chairman David Long and Cllr. Ian Angus attended the Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Forum on 20 October Noted the large development scheme adjacent to BT Adastral Park still ongoing.	
Correspondence	More than 60 items of correspondence had been received since the last Parish Council meeting. Too numerous to detail here! Of note were: email petition to stop Martlesham new Town; reply from the Gov. Office for East of England in Response to our letter to MP Eric Pickles on development at BT Adastral Park; notification of A14 closures for work; from the County Council advice on winter preparations and further correspondence re. hedge overhanging the highway near the Village Hall; consultation re. proposed offshore wind farm.	
Reports from Councillors	Cllr. Pat Pryke reported on parish transport; on the recent Anglia in Bloom success; and the Felixstowe Flyer request for a monthly article on Levington, Cllr. David Pryke reported on the recent Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison committee The Parish Chairman reported on a recent Village Trustees meeting where the income being received from current hire fees was encouraging. Cllr. Ruth Payce reported on local footpaths and her contact with the Rights of Way staff at SCC to improve local paths. The Tree and Church Field warden (David Long) reported that the family of Clement Smith (who had donated the land called Church Field to the parish) have renewed the plaque at the entrance to Trickers Wood.	

VILLAGE FORUM

Mrs. Joan Sheppard raised two issues:

(1) Problems were being experienced with the delivery of mail for 1-4 Bridge Road when 'relief' postmen were on duty. Mrs. Sheppard reported that post from those houses was being wrongly posted into letterboxes for 1-4 Walnut Tree Cottages, Bridge Road. *[The Parish Council agreed to follow this up to try and help the situation].*

(2) Queried the need for toilet facilities in the old A45 layby for lorry drivers. *[The Parish Council noted that a lot of articulated lorries have their own toilet facilities on board but would seek more clarification of the problem and seek advice from Environmental Health].*



POLICE REPORT [Pc Paul Smith]

Pc Paul Smith from the Felixstowe and District Safer Neighbourhood Team attended the Parish Council meeting and reported on the recent crimes recorded between 1st September and 2nd November 2010.

These were:

- (1) During the early evening unknown offenders damaged a black Audi A3 which was parked secure and unattended in the Creek car park. The front driver side window had been smashed but nothing was removed from inside.
- (2) Mid-afternoon a car parked outside the church had its front and rear offside windows smashed and once inside thieves stole a small black bag from the seat.
- (3) Overnight unknown offenders had covered the Marina yard CCTV cameras with stickers and then cut through a thick metal chain securing the gate to the entrance and gained access to the yard. Once inside four outboard engines were stolen. *[Forensic work currently ongoing and CID investigating].*
- (4) Overnight damage was caused to a white Mercedes Artic whilst parked in a layby. Damage consisted of a side window and front windscreen being smashed by having an object thrown at it and the cab side graffitied. *[No suspect but believed targeted].*



PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING WINTER

There were a few lessons to be learnt from the experience of last winter and one issue addressed by the Parish Council has been to request from the County Council grit for four locations the village, i.e. in the box outside the Village Hall for use at the T-junction; at Levington railway bridge; on the hill going out of Levington towards Nacton at East Lodge cottages; and also on the site of the removed telephone box outside Trickers Wood in Church Lane. Last year the County Council appreciated the help with spreading grit and salt and clearing of snow in places. Some members of the public were concerned that if they helped to clear snow they may have been liable for third party claims. The County Council confirms that anyone who clears snow from outside their own or someone else's property would only be liable for an accident if their efforts actually made the pavement less safe than it was with the snow and ice undisturbed and as a result somebody is injured.

Some advice when spreading salt/grit or clearing snow from the Highway at times of severe weather

- Be visible - wear a high visibility yellow long sleeved vest or jacket if you have one.
- Wear warm clothing and stout footwear which will provide good grip:
- Assess the location before commencing work. Do not attempt the work if you feel conditions would make this unsafe - for example if visibility is poor, traffic flows are too high or conditions are so severe that you would be placing yourself at risk of falling or extreme cold.
- Always be aware of approaching traffic. Remember the conditions may mean that traffic will have difficulty stopping.
- Use the grit sparing and thinly.
- When spreading salt/grit on pavements it is better to remove most of the snow first and then spread the salt/grit mixture
- **DO NOT USE HOT WATER.** This will melt the snow, but will replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A seasonal reminder

It's that time of year again - the clocks have gone back and preparations are being made for the coming winter. Darker nights and inclement weather provide perfect cover for both the opportunist thief and their harder-nosed friends. It is in our best interests and those of our neighbours not to attract unwelcome attention. Emphasis on the above, particularly unlocked cars containing attractive valuables, insecure garages and outbuildings, open windows and unlocked doors are all 'open invitations' to the uninvited. Security measures need not be a chore if carried out as routine and by instinct. All family members can take part.

Christmas presents - for whom?

With Christmas just around the corner many will be thinking about buying those lovely presents. Once bought the last thing one needs is for them to vanish overnight. Don't make it easy for someone to steal from your home. Keep presents out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve.

- Try not to 'hide' or store larger items in the shed or garage - obvious places for a thief to look. If unavoidable make sure they are very secure. If possible try and find more original hiding places - the loft is a good bet, being difficult and dangerous for a burglar to access.
- Ensure you take note of serial numbers and/or identification marks before expensive gifts are wrapped for Christmas. Register them on www.immobilise.com
- Keep receipts and instruction manuals separate so if the worst should happen, you have evidence of what was taken.
- Empty boxes and packaging left outside will advertise the fact that these goods are available inside! Dispose of packaging carefully.
- Try not to position the Christmas tree right by the window. This may attract attention to presents for anyone looking in. It is best not to put presents under the tree too long before Christmas. The longer they are on display the more opportunity there is for a burglary to take place.
- When out of the house make sure all the windows and doors are locked. After dark make it look as though someone is at home by leaving lights on or the radio playing.

Have a happy and safe Christmas

[Contributed by Bob Hardwick – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator]



BUS TIMETABLES

The Parish Transport representative (Cllr. Pat Pryke) has chased Suffolk County Council Public Transport officers for a bus timetable to be placed in the new bus shelter near Levington Bridge. She has also requested timetables to be placed on the bus stop poles near Stratton Hall Drift junction on the old A45 road. This is to aid not only the general public but also visitors and sailors from the Marina who walk up to the old A45 to access public transport and need to know which days and at what times the buses run between Ipswich and Felixstowe.

In the meantime - PLEASE DO TRY AND USE OUR LOCAL VILLAGE BUS the 163 service. In these current climes we really do want to keep our service which is essential for many who have no other means of transport. A reminder of some of the times:

Monday-Saturday (For Ipswich)

Depart Levington for Ipswich 10.30am

Return from Ipswich 13.10hrs or on schooldays there is also a 14.05hrs

or you can nip to Sainsburys for that little bit of shopping leaving on the 12.30hrs bus and getting back on the bus at Sainsburys at 13.20hrs for the journey home.

Monday-Saturday (For Felixstowe)

Depart Levington for Felixstowe 09.22hrs

Return from Felixstowe 12.15hrs

COME ON - GET ON BOARD!



THE RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN INFORMATION PROJECT team came to Lunch Club on Tuesday 14th September. Garry Simmonds the Programme Officer plus two ladies from Suffolk Family Carers enjoyed a meal with the Lunch clubbers before they explained what the Project was all about and provided a wealth of helpful information and leaflets about local and national agencies and organisations who can provide all sorts of help.



[Garry Simmonds talking to Celia Burroughs and Anne Pomroy]

Normally the project involves a caravan that is towed to villages in Suffolk and is set up on a village green or such like. They provide coffee and cakes either sitting outside if the weather is nice or in the village hall in the cooler weather. They visit in particular those whose villages lack community facilities. You can't say that of Levington but nevertheless it was useful to see and hear what the Project gets up to and to avail ourselves of the various booklets and leaflets offering all sorts of help. For example, there was information on benefits, transport, childcare, support groups, personal safety etc.

PRESENTATION OF A NEW LAPTOP



[Cllr. David Pryke, Max Ralph, Flower Show Chairman, County Councillor Patricia' O'Brien and Marian Rose on behalf of KPMG]

To go with the digital projector previously purchased the Parish Council is indebted and grateful for the receipt of further donations which has enabled them to purchase a new computer laptop to go with this equipment. Those who have kindly donated are our County Councillor Patricia O'Brien (£500 from her Locality Budget); the company KPMG (£250 from their Corporate Social Responsibility programme); and the Flower Show committee (£100 from the proceeds of the St. George's Day supper). Again, this is partnership working at its best and for the benefit of the parish. The projector has already been in use for Village Hall meetings and lectures. In earlier days presentations were done with overhead projectors and transparencies but now slides are almost extinct! Digital is the new technology! So the new equipment will next be in action for the village hall Christmas Show 'The happenings of Levington over the past year' when Derek Girling and David Pryke will have the opportunity to test it out! We very much thank all those who have donated and also thank Cllr. David Pryke who researched and purchased a suitable laptop and has set it up with the appropriate software.

THE VILLAGE DIARY

EVERY MONDAY MORNINGS	10.00am COFFEE HOUR (Village Hall)
Tuesday 9 th November	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 10 th November	7.30pm WI (Village Hall) AGM & speaker Tony Buckland on ‘World of Toys’
ARMISTICE DAY Thursday 11 th November	10.50am short ARMISTICE DAY service (War Memorial) 7.30pm ‘NORMANDY BATTLEFIELD TOUR’ Slide Show (Village Hall)
Sunday 14 th November	2.45pm VILLAGE PROCESSION from the Village Hall to St. Peter’s Church for 3.00pm EVENSONG AND REMEMBRANCE and laying of poppy wreaths (St. Peter’s Church)
Wednesday 17 th November	7.30pm GARDENING CLUB (Village Hall) ‘Winter Colour in the Garden’ Park Green Nurseries
Sunday 21 st November	11.00am Morning Service (St. Peter’s Church)
Wednesday 24 th November	7.30pm VILLAGE HALL AGM (Village Hall)
Sunday 28 th November	10.00am MORNING SERVICE (St. Peter’s Church)
Sunday 5 th December	10.00am Family Communion (St. Peter’s Church)
Tuesday 7 th December	7.30pm ‘Levington CHRISTMAS FILM SHOW (Village Hall)
Wednesday 8 th December	7.30pm WI (Village Hall) ‘A CHRISTMAS AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION by Michael Stagg
Sunday 12 th December	10.00am SERVICE (St. Peter’s Church)
Tuesday 14 th December	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Sunday 19 th December	4.00pm CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE (St. Peter’s Church)
Friday 24 th December	11.30pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (St. Peter’s)
Tuesday 18 th January 2011	7.15pm PARISH COUNCIL meeting



PRECEPT FOR 2011/12 AND BUDGET MAKING

A major task for any Council at this time of year is budget-making for the following year. The Parish Council Finance sub-committee will finalise a draft in the next couple of months for approval by the full Parish Council at the January 2011 Parish Council meeting. This Parish Council is very conscious of the need to exercise restraint in the demands made on the taxpayers and in the light of the current financial climate. We will do our best to contain the precept at the current level if at all possible. If we do it will be the 8th year in a row that the parish precept has not been raised. However, there will no doubt come a time when we will have raise the precept above its current levels as costs do not stand still. You may have noticed over the years that we work hard to find funding for equipment thus not having to make a demand on the village precept the latest acquisition being a laptop for parish council and village hall use fully funded by a generous donations from our County Councillor's Locality Budget, KPMG's Corporate Social Responsibility programme and a £100 donation from the Gardening Club. Partnerships working at its best.



FUND RAISING SUCCESS

A very successful French Evening held in the Village Hall on 10th September raised a grand total of £460 for the flood victims in Pakistan. Those attended found tables suitably decorated with candles in wine bottles and enjoyed a three course meal of french onion soup, followed by cassoulet and french bread with Plum Alsace Tart of French lemon tart to finish. All washed down with French wine of course! Well done to Jane Timmins who organised the evening and to Helen and all the other helpers.



LEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

WE DON'T JUST DO 'JAM AND JERUSALEM!' Belonging to the WI opens up so many opportunities and two lucky Levington WI members recently joined a party of 17 others for a guided tour of Orfordness with a National Trust guide. It's not every day you get the chance to visit so secret a place that most people had never heard of Orfordness during the war years. Orfordness played a hugely significant role in inventing and testing weapons and for over 80 years this was a highly classified research and test site for the military, the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and at some time the US Dept. of Defence. Some of the greatest scientists worked here testing nuclear bombs and working on top secret projects. This work was seen as crucial in winning three great wars, i.e. the first and second World Wars and the Cold War. After the short boat trip to the Ness Marian and Pat spent several hours on the trailer guided tour and learnt a lot about the history, the special shingle banks, marsh habitats and bird breeding grounds and plant life on the Ness. They even got the chance to go inside Lab. 4 one of the 'Pagodas' - a mysterious building.

COMING UP ...

Next meeting is 7.30pm in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 10th November**. First the AGM and then a talk on 'The World of Toys' with Tony Buckland. Visitors and new members always welcome.

AND THEN LEVINGTON WI GOES GOLDEN!

Yes - at our January 2011 meeting we will be celebrating 50 years of a Women's Institute in Levington. We will be having a celebration golden anniversary meal and other 'anniversary' events are being planned for later in 2011.

Retired? Unemployed? On a low income?

**If you live in the Suffolk Coastal area
and are struggling to pay your rent or your Council Tax,
you may be entitled to benefits to help you pay them.**

Apply today - call 01394 444838

Email benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**Apply online [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/
benefits/housingbenefit/claimonline](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits/housingbenefit/claimonline)**



Suffolk Coastal District Council
Housing Benefit
Melton Hill, Woodbridge
IP12 1AU
Open Monday to Thursday 8.45am to
5.15pm, and Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB REPORT OF MEETING 14TH OCTOBER

Pip Wright, a retired primary school teacher, had previously visited the Club and spoke on an intriguing topic 'Frolic, Fervour and Fornication' which was actually all about what you would never expect to find written in parish records of Suffolk compiled from registers and papers that once lay in the parish chests of Suffolk villages. On this return visit his subject was 'Witches in and around Suffolk'. An appropriate talk for the time of year coming up to Halloween and Bonfire night. His talk gave an insight into the treatment of 'witches' and how superstition had haunted Suffolk and the surrounding counties from medieval days right up to Victorian times. The history of witchcraft is an altogether dark story about suffering, persecution and death. It reached into the hearts of families and communities and created a fear and a hysteria that lasted until recent times.

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL OPENS THE 'MOIRA CONSTABLE COTTAGES' AT FIELD VIEW, NACTON



[Photo contributed by Sally Long]

The building of 6 affordable houses off the main street in Nacton on land between Amberfield School and the Orwell Stores was completed earlier this year and new residents have moved in. Two of those houses were available for anyone who had a connection to Levington either for rent or part-ownership.

Shrouded in secrecy to the general public, on Thursday 14th October, Princess Anne came to Nacton to officially open this new development called 'Field View'. The Princess unveiled a plaque to officially name the homes "Moiria Constable Cottages" after the late founder and chief executive of the Rural Housing Trust (RHT). The homes are occupied and the Princess was invited to look around one of them accompanied by the resident.

Parish Chairman, David Long, received an official invitation to the event and to a seminar at Orwell Park School afterwards which the Princess Royal attended on 'New Approaches to Achieving Sustainable Communities'.



[Photo contributed by Sally Long]

Invited guests, Levington's Parish Council Chairman David Long and Nacton's Parish Council Chairman Bob Giles at the opening of the affordable homes the 'Moiria Constable Cottages', Field View Nacton. The plaque on the wall commemorates the opening of the new homes by the Princess Royal.



MOBILE POLICE STATION

The mobile police station will visit Levington between 11.45hrs-13.15hrs at Bridge Road layby on

**Tuesday 16th November and
Tuesday 14th December**

Here you can obtain information, report crime and get advice on issues of concern. The mobile base contains most of the information you can find at your local police station. It is also equipped with the technology to help with a wide range of queries and can deal with lost property. You can also get your mobile phones and bicycles postcoded free of charge.



**A
PERFORMANCE
OF
HANDEL'S
MESSIAH**

(Part 1)

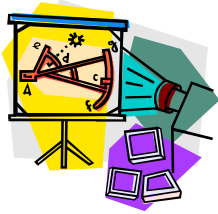
**On Advent Sunday
7.00pm 28th NOVEMBER
in St. Peter's Church, Levington**

**conducted by Peter Bumpstead
(organist at Levington)**

**With a small chamber orchestra and a team of
soloists, professional musicians amongst them, and
experienced singers in the choir.**

AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED!

**Tickets £6.00
Available from Diana Hawtin 659946**



***THE LEVINGTON
CHRISTMAS FILM SHOW!***

**7.30pm in the Village Hall
Tuesday 7th December 2010**

Village happenings during the year, seals in the creek, winter snow scenes, people, nature and lots more. Derek and David with a little help from other village photographers will have it all there to be seen on the new digital projector!

[£3.00 entrance on the door to include seasonal refreshments.
Raffle prizes welcomed]



Winter in Levington and Stratton Hall A time for log fires, bracing walks along the river and beaches. Christmas a time for the family and a chance to wind down, to reflect, and hope for all the coming New Year brings forth. Happy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year from the Parish Council team.

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*The next
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING*

*is in the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2011*

*[pre-agenda forum between
7.15pm-7.30pm]*

[Council meeting from 7.30pm]

[Open Forum at the end]

[ALL WELCOME]

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PARISH COUNCILLOR DETAILS

David Long (Chairman) 659342
David Pryke (Vice-Chairman) 659554
Ian Angus 659249
Nick Hopkins 659273
Ruth Payce 655535
Pat Pryke 659554
Linda Sharp 659771
Parish Clerk - Marian Rose 659638

Mrs. Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor) 01394 448228
Mrs. Veronica Falconer (District Councillor) 01394 448263

Village Hall Bookings (David and Mary Wake) (01473) 659627
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Bob Hardwick) (01473) 659631
Area Police Beat Officer Pc Paul Smith (01473) 613500
Safer Neighbourhood Team/Sgt. James Harper (01473) 613500

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