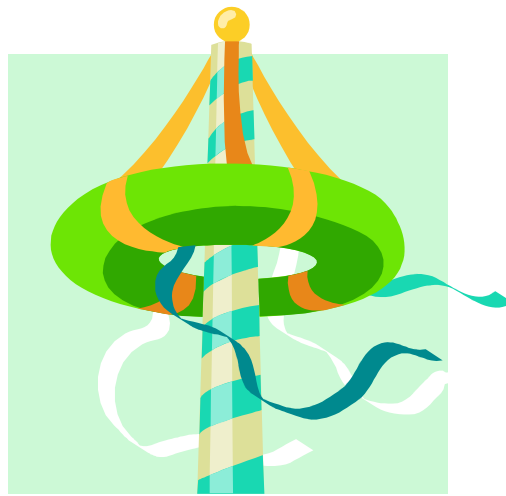


*\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\**  
*LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL*

*PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER*



**MAY 2010**

Calor England Village of the Year 2008

[www.levington.org](http://www.levington.org)

*\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\* ~\**

Dear Villager - Welcome to the May 2010 edition of the Parish Council newsletter. Any new residents are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in the village life of Levington.

---

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May the Annual Parishes meeting preceded the Parish Council Annual Meeting. With my fellow parish councillors I would like to thank everyone who spoke or gave their reports and attended the annual parishes meeting and for making it so informative and interesting. Although there were some absences, most village organisations had a representative present who gave a resume of what had happened over the past year.

As for the Parish Council, we continued to meet bi-monthly. At these meetings we discuss local issues and matters of importance, planning matters referred to us by the District Council, correspondence received and our finances. The Parish Council works at a number of levels. These include seeking to influence the services provided by county and district councils and other organisations; facilitating the work of voluntary organisations via grants and other support (i.e. donations given to our local school and church and working closely with the Village Hall Trustees) and organising local events such as Parish Litter picks etc. Above all, our main aim is to lead this community and in this the Parish Council endeavours to be open and accessible to everyone.

In the past few weeks we have seen two new faces round the Parish Council table to bring the team up to strength again. First was Nick Hopkins and at our May Parish Council meeting we were able to welcome Ruth Payce as a newly co-opted parish councillor. At the same meeting, I was elected again as your Parish Council Chairman and I am proud to be able to continue representing you all.

Finally, I would like to thank all those on the Parish Council, including our Clerk, for their contributions during the past year. Further, I would like to thank our District and County Councillors for their continued interest, advice and assistance.

*[David Long, Parish Council Chairman]*

## WE HAVE BEEN 'STREET VIEW' GOOGLED!!



*View of Bridge Road, Levington*

Yes, Levington and Stratton Hall (as is Nacton) have been 'Street View' Googled and you can now see street level photos of all our local houses and roads to view on the internet.

The images give viewers a 360° horizontal and 290° vertical panoramic street level view within Google Maps. Google have taken these images using special cameras and equipment mounted on the top of a car or van. 'Street View' is limited to public roads and you will notice that faces of people seen and vehicle licence plates are usually obscured so they can't be identified.

So for those of you with access to computers and the internet do have a look at the 'Street View' images for our area. *[Street level images are also available for many other cities, towns and villages in the UK as well as abroad so have fun exploring!]*.

To use Google Street View go to [www.maps.google.co.uk](http://www.maps.google.co.uk) and type the address or postcode of the street you would like to look at. For example try Bridge Road, Levington. Then drag the 'Pegman' (*so called as he is shaped like a clothes peg*) to the road or street to enter 'Street View'. Normally he sits at the top of the zoom bar and if he is lit up yellow this means the Street View images are available to view.

You can navigate your way along the street by using the circular direction tool which also allows you to look up and down. It looks like the 'Google' Street View car came through the village about 8.30am one morning in April last year. You can see all the lovely spring flowers out around the village especially the Red House Walk area and the Village Hall junction. Surprisingly, the captured pictures only spotted a few residents i.e. our Churchwarden leaving for work with his papers and briefcase! Also two of our young people who look as if they might be waiting for the school bus at the Village Hall and a resident coming away from the Village Hall having picked up his newspaper (this latter image can be seen as you scan from the church to the village hall up Church Lane). If you don't have access to a computer yourself perhaps a neighbour, friend or relative who has will show you 'Street View' on Google.

-----



### **LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB**

**Now you can become a member for just £5 this year!**

Although everyone is very welcome to attend History Club speaker evenings for £3.00 on the door why not consider becoming a member and take advantage of reduced entrance fees (just £1.00 for members) and be part of a club which is collating and undertaking historical research on our village. At the recent AGM it was decided that subscriptions could now be £5.00 a year as a reasonable reserve had built up over the two years of the Club's existence. **SO WHY NOT CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER.**

At the AGM members discussed recent projects. These included documenting with photographs the May Queens of Levington by Rosanne Girling - a tradition which was held in Levington over many years but sadly no longer is held. Derek Girling had produced a booklet on the History of the War Memorial. Sally Long had now transcribed the 1871 and 1881 censuses for Levington to add to those already done in 2009. She also read out an email from a war evacuee (Sydney Durham) from Forest Gate London who stayed with Molly Fisk, recalling happy memories of his time here. A reply to Mr. Durham will be sent to include pictures of the cottage now (and then if we can find any)!



## OPERATION STACK



In the March newsletter we (the Parish Council) said we would give detailed consideration to the County Council report 'Operation Stack - Long Term Arrangement'. In doing so we have attempted to be both strategic and objective and realistic. Additionally, we have applied our experiences of temporary Stack over the last two years; something we felt was lacking at the recent top level meeting of the Steering Group.

We started by evaluating each option in the County Council's report, (see our report in the March newsletter) and added 'Temporary Stack' as a further comparison. Our method was to identify strengths and weaknesses of each option and this we did by looking at the minimum requirements for stacking the lorries. We have produced a spreadsheet of our findings.

Our conclusion from our assessment clearly shows that the Orwell Crossing Options offer more benefits and fit the requirements far better than any other, and with sufficient expansion possibilities would form the basis of a sustainable long term solution.

We are mindful that high capital costs would be involved in making a permanent Stack Area at Innocence Farm, off the A14 and obtaining public capital could prove a challenge in the current financial climate.

We noted that diagrammatic representation of parked HGVs differed in the Options. Not all had space for essential maneuverability and safety, most markedly in Options 3a and 3b, and we have asked for further explanation of this.

Options 3a and 3b involved the old A45 area either side of the Levington Railway Bridge. A key point of those Options was that the local public roads, the Old A45 and Bridge Road, would remain open whilst Stack was in force. We considered this Option and quickly came to the conclusion that this would not be feasible. Normal local traffic and a continuous stream of parking HGVs would be crossing each other's paths, and all our experience would suggest that this would simply be too dangerous.

We came up with a compromise solution. So far, the 280 capacity of Temporary Stack on the Old A45 has been sufficient, although this has been a close run thing when Stack has been in operation for a continued length of time. We have asked the County Council to consider Option 2b (the Orwell Crossing Lorry Park area) in two parts. Firstly, create spaces for 350 HGVs, and use the Old A45 as a Stack overflow, if needed. This should result in an initial lower requirement for capital expenditure. The second part could then be considered when needed. Of course, this would not take into account expansion of the port, in which case considerable additional space will have to be found elsewhere to the Old A45. We hope that by sending our considered responses and spreadsheet to all members of the high level Steering Group they will see we continue to be pro-active in this matter and will stimulate some useful discussions in order to find a permanent solution for Operation Stack as quickly as possible.

-----



## **THE NEW BUS SHELTER**

The new bus shelter the Parish Council applied for on the west bound carriageway of the Old A45 at Levington has finally been installed. There was some delay as the original bus shelter supplier went into liquidation! As a result we are grateful to Paul Horne at Suffolk County Council for finding an excellent alternative from another supplier which suitably matches the shelter on the opposite east bound carriageway. The shelter was fully funded by the County Council from a budget approved for the upgrade of the Felixstowe/Ipswich bus route. Thus we have not had to use parish precept funds for this project.

## DOWN YOUR WAY -PARISH LITTER PICKS



*[Photo contributed by Ian Willstead]*

### LITTER PICKING

**(2 x 14 = 28 x 2hrs = 56 man and woman hours!)**

Some people work very hard to keep the village looking as tidy as possible. On both 27<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> April 14 villagers gave up their Saturday mornings to 'litter pick' throughout the village. They collected trailer-loads of rubbish (including over 50 tyres) and felt by the end of the morning that the roads, including the Old A45, and the Foreshore had never looked better. One intrepid volunteer even waded out and retrieved the wheelie bin from the middle of the Creek. However one villager went out on the following Monday and found 20 items of rubbish on Bridge Road between the village and the bridge! Oh dear!



*[Photo contributed by Ian Willstead]*

(The Parish Council would like to thank the good souls who turned out to make our village spic and span and also to the organisers and collectors of the rubbish to a point where it makes it easier for the District Council to cart away).

## WE WELCOME A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR



**RUTH PAYCE**

We are delighted to announce that Ruth Payce has agreed to be co-opted to the Parish Council. This fills the vacancy following the resignation of Jane Timmin's and brings the Parish Council team back to full strength.

Ruth was formally co-opted at the Parish Council meeting on 11th May. She has agreed to be one of the parish councillors on the Planning Committee, to take on the Coasts and Heaths and footpaths responsibility and to deputise on the Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison committee. Ruth and her husband Jed moved into 'The Moorings' on Bridge Road in July 2007, after purchasing the house from Paul and Olann Ridewood. Prior to this they had been living in Felixstowe.

Until recently, Ruth was employed as a Human Resources Manager at the Port of Felixstowe, however when the opportunity arose to take voluntary redundancy, she decided that after 11 years with the company, it was time for a change. Having completed some major renovations to 'The Moorings' Ruth now has that bit more free time and would like to get involved in village life.

She is a member of the David Lloyd Fitness Club on Ransomes and enjoys keeping fit, along with travelling, gardening and walking (especially if The Ship or a similar establishment can be incorporated en route!). Having recently taken a beekeeping course, she is also hoping to take this up as a hobby in the future.

## THE ROBERT HITCHAM ALMSHOUSES, LEVINGTON NEW NAME BOARD

To aid visitors, emergency vehicles, carers to find the Almshouses more easily, a suitable name board has now been erected on the grass verge outside the Almshouse. We must thank Michael Barker in the village for kindly making the Board.



Dog fouling remains one of the Parish's most pressing social issues. Levington Parish Council has had a number of complaints from very irate residents about dog fouling, both on the foreshore walk and up by the railway bridge. Dog faeces, as well as being unpleasant, can be very dangerous, particularly for children, as it can cause blindness, if transferred to face and eyes.

We asked one resident, who said she was having to clear up on a regular basis, to count the number of 'messes' she cleared away in

March (110: average of 3.7 per day) and  
April (129: average of 4.7 per day)

This is a quite unacceptable state of affairs. So severe has the problem become that the Parish Council is therefore asking all responsible parishioners to tackle any dog-owner they see not clearing-up after their dog and thereby giving all dog-owners a bad name. If they would prefer, please report the culprit to any Parish Councillor.

**Please be a good neighbour and clean up after your dog:** there are bags and bins provided in Pilot's Way and at the Creek Car Park.

Ian Angus

## ST. GEORGES DAY SUPPER

23<sup>rd</sup> April in the Village Hall



*Samantha Bullard and Marian Rose entering into the spirit of St. George's Day Supper!*

The village's St. George's Day supper was held on Friday night 23<sup>rd</sup> April and proved to be a very enjoyable night out. The tables were decorated in patriotic red cloths and the St. George's flag bunting hung from the walls. Before an excellent two course meal was provided (with lots of second helpings!) there were table games in the form of quizzes which kept our brains in trim before we started on the wine and food. After the meal two games of bingo meant fun for all and this was followed by a well supported raffle.

Levington Flower Show committee would like to thank all those who supported the Supper and helped in whatever capacity gave raffle prizes or decorated the Village Hall etc. From feedback it would seem that everyone enjoyed the evening and the magnificent sum of £207.40 was raised from which the following donations will be given to:

East Anglian Children's Hospice Tree House Appeal £100  
Contribution towards computer laptop (Village Hall) £100

Events such as this help to bind our community together and that can't be a bad thing. So a big thank you again to all involved especially committee members and helpers for all their hard work.

## LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

### Houses and Estates on the Banks of the Orwell

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 Dr John Blatchly, retired headmaster of the famous Ipswich School and Chairman of the Suffolk Records Society, took us on a nostalgic journey down our lovely local river.

Dr Blatchly; familiar to many through his regular articles in the East Anglian Daily Times and author of many historical books associated with Suffolk, captivated an overflowing audience with slides of his personal collection of illustrations, etchings and impressive watercolours illustrating the history of the Country Houses and Estates which line the banks of the river Orwell, and entertained us with anecdotes about the families who lived there.

We started our journey with an illustration depicting Ipswich on the Orwell in 1537. Landmarks such as St Margaret's Church and Wolsey Gate were easily recognisable. We learned of old shipyards now long gone, called Halifax and Nova Scotia. Many grand places which have stood the test of time such as Broke Hall and Orwell Park. Freston Tower built in 1578 by a wealthy Ipswich merchant called Thomas Gooding may have been built just to impress Queen Elizabeth as she visited Ipswich in 1579, since we learned that only the side that faces the river is imposing, the other being quite plain in comparison. Some artwork showed evidence of historical monuments and architecture long gone such as the magnificent Woolverstone Obelisk erected in 1793, to the memory of W. Berners, Esq. which stood 97 feet high. We heard the amusing tale of how The Duke of Wellington went to stay with Lord Granville at Wherstead Hall in 1823, and accidentally shot Lord Granville in the face, and was cross with his host for getting in the way!! Dr Blatchley had an entertaining way of captivating his appreciative audience.

Special thanks were also given to Bob Hardwick and David Pryke for their technical expertise in helping to prepare for the talk and to Ian and Margaret Angus for feeding the Doctor first!

*[Sally Long, Chairman of Levington Local History Club]*

## THE VILLAGE DIARY

<b>EVERY MONDAY MORNING</b>	10.00-11.00am Monday Morning Coffee Hour (Village Hall)
-----	-----
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm <b>GARDENING CLUB</b> (Village Hall)
-----	-----
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.00am <b>ALL AGE WORSHIP</b> (St. Peter's Church)
-----	-----
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am <b>BENEFICE SERVICE</b> (St. Peter's Church)
-----	-----
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>SUFFOLK SHOW</b>
-----	-----
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>SUFFOLK SHOW</b>
-----	-----
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am <b>FAMILY COMMUNION</b> (St. Peter's)
-----	-----
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	12.30pm <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
-----	-----
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	7.30pm <b>WI</b> 'The Work of a Magistrate' (Village Hall)
-----	-----
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm <b>EVENSONG</b> (St. Peter's Church)
-----	-----
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00pm <b>GARDENING CLUB</b> (Matthews' garden)
-----	-----
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00am <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> (St. Peter's Church)
-----	-----
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	11.30am <b>WI COACH TRIP TO NAYLAND</b>
-----	-----
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am <b>ALL AGE WORSHIP</b> (St. Peter's Church)
-----	-----
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>GARDENING CLUB</b> Visit to Parham Hall gardens
-----	-----
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am <b>FAMILY COMMUNION</b> (St. Peter's)
-----	-----
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	7.15pm <b>PARISH COUNCIL</b> meeting (Village Hall)
-----	-----
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30pm <b>LEVINGTON HISTORY CLUB</b> (Village Hall) 'Characters of East Anglia' with Mark Mitchels

## SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010

The following are some points from annual reports for:

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

The Local Government review and the Local Development Framework have dominated local government in the past year. On the first, the Secretary of State decided there was not enough agreement across Suffolk for one particular option and thus it is likely that we have heard the last of unitary status in Suffolk. On the second item the proposal to site 2,000 homes and ancillaries at Adastral Park was still controversial and Mrs. O'Brien continues to oppose this. Suffolk County Council produced the lowest council tax for Suffolk at 2.4% and had saved £70m over the past 4 years by re-structuring services and re-organising staff. Mrs. O'Brien's full report can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

### **District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer).**

Mrs. Falconer also reported on the past year being monopolised by the Local Development Framework and like Mrs. O'Brien is opposed to the vast planning proposal at Adastral Park. The Suffolk Coastal area was ranked the 7<sup>th</sup> best place to live in a national poll. The District Council is tasked with making a 20% budget cut in services as a result of the economic downturn. Car parking prices have been frozen until 2012. The Housing Dept. is a high performer for processing new housing benefit claims and changes of circumstances. There are 121 affordable houses in the pipeline. Mrs. Falconer becomes Chair of Suffolk Coastal District Council at the end of May. Her full report can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

### **Police Report (Pc Paul Smith)**

21 crimes reported in period 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. 11 of these were committed at the Marina and Creek. 4 being theft from motor vehicles (3 being unsecured). Others - theft from boats. Be vigilant if you park at the Creek – lock your car and do not leave any valuables in it. Other crimes 1 x dog not under proper control (detected). 2 x possession of controlled drug (detected at Old A45 layby and Creek). 1 x case of Fraud. Public Order Act offence – 2 passengers on board 75 bus on Old A45 – detected. 1 x house burglary – two suspects and vehicle seen and enquiries ongoing with CID. From this you will see most of the crime is actually outside the main residential area of the village. Cllr. Ian Angus and Pc Paul Smith agreed to follow up the adequacy of CCTV at the Marina. Finally, opportunist crime is on the increase. Be aware and alert.

<b>Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman</b>	<p>David Long was unanimously elected as Chairman for the coming year.</p> <p>David Pryke was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman</p>
<b>Election of Committees and Officers</b>	<p>The following were elected:</p> <p>Planning committee: Ian Angus, David Long, David Pryke, Nick Hopkins and Ruth Payce</p> <p>Finance Advisory committee: Ian Angus, David Long, David Pryke and Marian Rose (Parish Clerk).</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer remains the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>The internal auditor will be Heelis &amp; Lodge,</p> <p><u>Representatives for:</u></p> <p>Suff. Assoc. of Local Councils - David Long</p> <p>Village Hall committee - David Pryke</p> <p>Coasts and Heaths/Footpath Warden - Ruth Payce</p> <p>Tree and church field warden - David Long</p> <p>Almshouses - Ian Angus</p> <p>Transport - Pat Pryke</p> <p>Emergency Planning - David Long &amp; Ian Angus</p> <p>Editor of the Parish Council newsletter - Pat Pryke</p> <p>Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison Committee - Ian Angus, David and Pat Pryke (Deputy: Ruth Payce)</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Team- David Long and Ian Angus</p> <p>Operation Stack Steering Group-David Long &amp; David Pryke</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Bob Hardwick</p> <p>Church Field Management WP - David Pryke, David Long, Nick Hopkins + Bob Hardwick as adviser</p> <p>Nacton School representative - Ian Angus</p>
<b>Finance</b>	<p>The Accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 were approved. (expenditure and income in line with budgeted amounts). Noted finances were on track and the Parish Council's careful budgeting and forward planning was still proving successful with adequate reserves and no increase in the parish precept since 2004.</p> <p>Annual subscriptions for insurance and Suffolk Assoc. of Local Councils received authorisation.</p> <p>Progress on the Projects Programme was noted.</p>

<b>Planning Applications</b>	(1)	To extend timeline for dualling of the railway <i>[Parish Council supported this 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010]</i>
	(2)	Re-submission of proposed construction of irrigation reservoir (C/10/0989) at Stratton Hall Drift <i>[Supported by Parish Council on 10/5/10]</i>
	(3)	Two applications from <i>(Listed Building)</i> Hill Cottage, Church Lane, Levington (1) C/10/1026 Erection of detached garage/storage building and access gate <i>[Supported by the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 but with a comment that further consideration should be given to increasing the width of the vehicular access as the submitted width may be too narrow for a vehicle to turn into from a narrow access path]</i> (2) C/10/0933 & C/10/0950 Erection of two-storey extension (revised scheme) (renewal of planning permission (C07/0795). <i>[Supported by Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010. However, this existing planning approval provides for a cart lodge (garage) and planning application (a) C10/1026 for the same site is for a double garage (vehicles in line) and storage area, but in a different position to the cart lodge. The Parish Council is of the opinion that there is a combined consequence of granting planning approval from two separate planning applications for two garages on this site, as it is detrimental to the visual amenity of the open countryside in an AONB. It would be preferable to remove the cart lodge from C10/0933. The Parish Council opinion is passed to the District Council.]</i>
<b>Operation Stack</b>	The Parish Council evaluation of the County Council's report on 'Temporary Stack' was received by County Councillor Guy McGregor who has replied saying it was helpful and he would be discussing this with County Council officers and will take the comments and suggestions fully into account.	

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

As mentioned in the Parish Chairman's foreword this meeting was held before the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The Parish Council would like to thank those representatives from village organisations who attended to give their annual reports and to the attendance of the County and District Councillors and our local Police Office Paul Smith and PCSO Amy Clarke. It was much appreciated. The County and District Councillors and Police report are précised elsewhere in this newsletter.

### **Other reports**

Village Hall committee - Stephen Rackham advised the Village Hall continued to run successfully. However, the receipts from hire of the hall were still less than the running costs and accordingly they are still dependent upon donations and fund raising activities to break even each year. The Trustees were particularly grateful for the Parish Council donation and splendid donation of £400 from Derek Girling being proceeds from his 'Levington Remembers' Veteran's Day Exhibition last August.

Levington Women's Institute - Pat Pryke read out the report on behalf of the President Pat Owen which gave a resume of the 2009 meetings, social events and Group meeting held at the Marina.

Village Recorders Derek and Rosanne Girling. Derek reported that a monthly diary of village events and happenings continued to be kept throughout the year, along with nature notes and monthly rainfall figures and daily temperature recordings. A photographic record of the year is kept on slides and prints so that slide film evenings can be held in the village hall. A very successful weekend Veteran's Day Exhibition was held last August.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Bob Hardwick continues to monitor crime incidents in the parish. He keeps an eye on the village and is the contact between the village and the Police. He also provides useful articles for the Parish Council newsletters.

Parish Transport Cllr. Pat Pryke reported on the new bus shelter; the changes to the over 60s Bus Passes, the village bus service and bus problems during any Operation Stack exercise.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORTS continued ...

Friends of St. Peter's Barrie Hawtin reported on increasing membership of the Friends, its clear up days, the renovated east church wall and particularly on the enhanced area near the South Porch, with the new bench and renovated War Memorial.

Levington Local History Club David Long reported that membership had risen to nearly 30 although on one particular speaker evening the Hall was full to overflowing with members and non-members. A 'speaker evening' programme will continue for 2010. Some members continue with village research and Derek Girling had published a book on the History of Levington's War Memorial.

Levington Gardening Club Marian Rose reported on the past year's varied topic meetings of the Gardening Club. There had also been excellent outings - a guided walk around Christchurch Park and a visit to the Old Vicarage Gardens at East Ruston in Norfolk. This year's programme is also proving popular with several people coming from outside the village to join with villagers.

Levington Flower Show Max Ralph reported on the 2009 Flower Show and although the Harvest Supper had to be cancelled it was replaced with a successful St. George's evening and Supper. For this year's Flower Show all the Show cups have been replaced with new ones and funding and donations for these have come from many sources.

Church Field and Tree Warden David Long reported that bird boxes are now installed and thanked Stephen Rackham for the regular cutting of the grass on Church Field throughout the season.

Levington Almshouses Ian Angus reported on improvement and maintenance work carried out.

Nacton School Ian Angus reported on the school's activities and achievements during the past year.

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB  
WEDNESDAY EVENING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



Another interesting Gardening Club  
visit is planned to

**THE GARDENS AT PARHAM HALL, nr Woodbridge**  
(by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Paul)

Evening event:

Members £2.00 and non-members £3.00 on the door

More details from Marian Rose on 659638

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE - LEVINGTON PROVIDES A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE**

Each County and District Council has a statutory obligation to maintain a Standards Committee to oversee standards in public life. These Committees have a set constitution, and include one representative from a large Parish/Town Council, and one from a Smaller Parish Council. Suffolk Coastal District Council had vacancies for each of these places earlier this year. It sought names from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) and SALC put forward the name of our Parish Council Chairman, David Long who was unaware of this! However, following interviews and the ultimate agreement of the full District Council, David is now the representative of the Smaller Parish Councils on the District Standards Committee for the next four years.



Congratulations to David and this is another example of  
the high regard in which Levington is held in local authority circles

## LEVINGTON FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY



The Flower and Produce Show will be opened at 3.00pm in the Village Hall by Suffolk local personality Peggy Cole, the Flower Show will provide an afternoon of interest. Browse all the fruit and vegetable classes, the children's exhibits and all the crafts entered. Then how about a cup of tea and a slice of delicious home-made cake (ably dispensed by Levington WI ladies). There will, of course, be a raffle and outside (weather permitting) the usual plant stall and ice-creams for sale. Do have a go at entering the various classes and come and enjoy a very sociable afternoon.

In this small village we are so fortunate to have a Flower Show committee who year in year out organise our shows. Levington has had a Flower and Produce Show for over 50 years now and it is good we can still continue that tradition. So thank you to the committee for all their efforts again this year. We hope you are rewarded with another very successful Flower and Produce Show for Levington.

### **PLEASE NOTE: information on GARDEN JUDGING**

The Flower and Vegetable Garden Judging for the Show will take place earlier this year. The committee hope this will encourage more gardeners to enter. All entries to be sent in to Christine Bullard, 'Threeways', The Green, Levington **by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June** for Flower and Vegetable Gardens only. Entry brochures will have other dates for ALL CLASSES AND CHILDREN'S SUNFLOWER COMPETITION.

The committee look forward to receiving bumper entries this year. The new Trophies will be awarded at this year's Show.



## WHEN WILL I NOW GET MY FREE CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS!! CHANGES TO NATIONAL BUS PASS have sneaked in!

In the Labour government's recent Budget speech it was announced that the free bus pass entitlement (currently for the over 60s) is being phased back to age 65 in England, i.e. entitlement to a bus pass is to be gradually phased from age 60 to 65 in England. It appears that Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have no plans to move from age 60 qualification. The phasing back began in April. It does not make life easy now to calculate when you are entitled to your free bus pass! All I can advise you is to go to Suffolk Coastal District Council's website:

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Search for: concessionary bus pass - Bus and travel pass page comes up

Click on 'national bus pass'

Read the 'Am I eligible for a bus pass'?

and click on the: 'State Pension Age Calculator (State Pension Age is now linked to concessionary bus pass)

This brings up a form - fill in the required details and submit and the date when you are eligible for a free bus pass will be shown. As an alternative, you can email your enquiry to [concessionary.fares@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:concessionary.fares@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

Failing this, if you do not have access to a computer and you need help and advice then do contact **in writing**:

**Concessionary Fares**  
**Suffolk Coastal District Council**  
**Melton Hill**  
**Woodbridge**  
**IP12 1AU**

**Or phone:** help and advice can be given by their Customer Services team on **01394 444647**.

*[Cllr Pat Pryke - Parish Transport Representative]*



## **WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> June SUFFOLK SHOW DAYS**

Let's hope for warmer weather this year for the Show Days. Those of us who stood out on Bridge Road last year on the first day to watch 10 sets of horse drawn carriages come through the Village on their tour round the area and back to the Showground endured very cold showery weather! But what a spectacle they made when they did come up the back road from Nacton and up Bridge Road. If you missed it you have another opportunity on the Wednesday. They should leave the Showground at 2.10pm and be in Nacton and Levington soon after. Have your cameras ready!

-----

### **VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOX**

In the March newsletter we asked residents if they had any concerns or views about BT's intention not to replace the telephone box in Church Lane after it was recently demolished by a car. The second time this has happened! In the event no-one did respond. BT is still consulting with the District Council re. its possible reinstatement but given the nil response by residents and that the phone had not been used in over a year, the Parish Council is of the opinion that reinstatement of the phone is not necessary.

-----

### **NEW CREMATORIUM NR. SEVEN HILLS ROUNDABOUT**

Many of you perhaps will have seen work in progress at the new crematorium near Seven Hills Roundabout. It has been reported in the East Anglian Daily Times that Phase 1 of the new crematorium in what was known as Porter's Covert will become operational in September this year. Initially, there will be capacity for 1400 cremations per year. Phase 2, when operational (date unknown), will increase this capacity to 2500 cremations per year. (PS: Your editor has already seen one car getting into difficulty whilst trying to do a 'U' turn at the entrance to the crematorium road perhaps caused by taken the wrong exit from Seven Hills roundabout!)



Bob Hardwick has been prevailed upon (more like press ganged!) into entering Levington again into this year's Anglia in Bloom competition.

The judges will be Eileen Ward and Nolan Mills who have the Coastal Towns and Small Villages as their categories. They will visit Levington 3.00pm onwards on the afternoon of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, Bob has already been busy improving and tidying up some parts of the village. The flower beds next to the Levington road signs area next on his agenda. A lot of effort was put in last year i.e. the flower tubs outside the Village Hall which have continued to be maintained by Levington WI members as is the Red House Walk area. Water butts for conserving water were installed. Bird boxes have been put up in Trickers Wood and the churchyard. All of those efforts will count again for this year's entry. Last year, at our first attempt, we won a SILVER AWARD. Let's see if we can maintain that status or go even one better this time! If you would like to help Bob in his efforts please contact him by phoning 659631.

-----

## **MONDAY MORNING COFFEE MORNERS ENJOY A FREE MEAL!**



Some of the 19 coffee morning guests enjoying a free meal!

There is often more to just calling into the Village Hall at 10.00am on a Monday morning for a coffee, chat and to purchase home-made bread and produce! In fact if you attend on a regular basis you may be lucky to enjoy another treat - a free meal at The Ship! 19 of the coffee morning attendees did just this recently with main course and dessert plus a glass of wine and coffee all paid for by the profits of the coffee mornings. Many thanks to Jo and Len Wenham and Mags Pilgrim who run the Monday morning coffee hour.

**LEVINGTON WI** is a very friendly group that meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month (excluding August) in the village hall. The meeting starts with the business of the month followed by a guest speaker or demonstrator. Coffee/tea and biscuits with a social chat ends the evening. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



**LEVINGTON WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTE**

The June meeting is 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Speaker Angela Pratt on 'The Work of a Magistrate'.



**FEEL LIKE A DAY OUT?  
COACH TRIP TO NAYLAND-  
With lunch and guided tour**

Levington WI members invite you to join them and their partners/friends for a **COACH TRIP** to Nayland

**ON SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Trip includes a 3-course lunch at the Anchor Inn at Nayland which specialises in using its own home grown produce before a guided tour of the Heritage Farm nearby. See [www.anchornayland.co.uk](http://www.anchornayland.co.uk) for more details.

**Cost: £24.00 a head**

Coach leaves Levington at 11.30am

**COME AND ENJOY A DAY OUT - EVERYONE  
WELCOME**

Contact Diane Willsted on 659257 to reserve your place.

**IT'S BACK AGAIN FOR ANOTHER SEASON!  
MONDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR**



Jo and Len Wenham and Mags Pilgrim welcome you back for 2010 to the Monday Morning coffee hour in the Village Hall

**Monday mornings, including Bank Holiday Mondays  
10.00am to 11.00am in the Village Hall**

As we have said before, this is no ordinary coffee morning! Yes, there is coffee and home-made shortbread to enjoy but there is also a wonderful home-made produce stall of goodies to buy to take home to enjoy later. And there is the chance to relax for an hour in good company - both male and female. So do come along and experience a Levington coffee morning.

**ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP MORNING  
IN APRIL**



It's hard but enjoyable work clearing up the churchyard and many thanks to all those who volunteered some time to do so one Saturday morning in April. And the picture? Barrie and Roger enjoying a welcome break and a cup of coffee in the sunshine!

## TREE PLANTING - RED HOUSE WALK



On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Jackie and Alex the daughter and son of the late Judith Pope of Red House Walk planted a Medlar, *Mespilus germanica* 'Nottingham' - in memory of their mother who died in July 2009. This was a favourite fruit tree of Judith's. The fruit can be made into a delicious jelly ideal for meat dishes such as lamb or venison or for adding to gravy.



Also attending the tree planting were Heather Massey, chairman of the East Anglian Garden Group (EAGG) and her husband Brian. Jim and Judith Pope were great supporters and long time members of the EAGG and from time to time opened their garden at Red House Walk to members. Over the years Jim built up a wide range of interesting and rare plants in their garden, a number of which Jackie has passed on to members of the EAGG for which a donation was given to The Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT). Jim and Judith were also long time members and keen supporters of SWT for which they opened their garden to members for 'garden open day' fund raising. A flowering cherry, *Prunus* 'Pink Champagne' tree was also planted in Red House Walk in 1999 in

memory of Jim Pope, Judith's husband, and this continues to thrive and has almost grown to maturity, flowering well each year.



**LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB**  
*(Next Event)*

Well known lecturer **MARK MITCHELS**  
will tell the stories of a collection of lives of famous  
- and infamous - East Anglians in a talk entitled:

**'CHARACTERS OF EAST ANGLIA'**

**7.30pm THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY**  
*in the Village Hall*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

On the door £3.00 non-members  
£1.00 Local History Club members  
(to include refreshments)

**The 2010 PIN MILL BARGE MATCH**



This year's Pin Mill Barge Match (for those of you who like to walk down to Levington foreshore to see all the wonderful Thames barges sail by) is on:

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**BOWSPRIT CLASS A** starting at 10:00 hrs

**STAYSAIL CLASS B** starting at 10:15 hrs

**STAYSAIL CLASS C** starting at 10:30 hrs

## TWO GARDENING CLUB MEETINGS COMING UP

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB  
19<sup>th</sup> MAY MEETING**

A REMINDER the May Gardening Club meeting night is

**7.30pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
in the Village Hall  
and the speaker is the Suffolk local personality  
'PEGGY COLE'**



Members £2.00 and non-members £3.00 on the door  
To include refreshments

AND

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB  
WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



**A MEETING WITH A DIFFERENCE!**

**A GUIDED TOUR OF MIKE AND NANCY  
MATTHEWS ORGANIC GARDEN (Meet 7.00pm at  
*Greenways*)**

*Following on from their talk in March*

Members £2.00 and non-members £3.00  
To include refreshments

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

*The next*  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

*is in the Village Hall on*

**MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010**

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

*[Council meeting from 7.30pm]*

*[Open Forum at the end]*

**[ALL WELCOME]**

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**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

*Published by Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council*  
*[Member of SALC -the Suffolk Association of Local Councils]*