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LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL

*PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER*



MARCH 2011

Calor England Village of the Year 2008
and Anglia in Bloom Silver Award winner

www.levington.org

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Dear Villagers and Subscribers - Hello and Welcome to the March 2011 edition of the Parish Council newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)

With Spring hopefully round the corner, things starting to warm up and flower and shrubs blooming and birds singing it is most appropriate that Jane Hamblin of Land Army Designs is coming to Gardening Club on 16th March to talk about 'Garden Designs/Bed in a Box'.

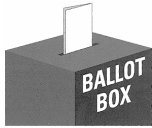
2011 Parish Council Elections Parish Council elections will be held on Thursday May 5th 2011 when one seat for Stratton Hall and 6 for Levington Parish Council will be contested. This is the same day as Suffolk Coastal District Council elections and will in all probability also be the date for the National Referendum on the Alternative Voting System. Anybody interested in standing for the Parish Council should contact our Parish Clerk, Marian Rose, for more details and a nomination pack. This is now available and must be completed and returned either to Marian who will send them into the District Council en-bloc or to the Elections Office at Suffolk Coastal District Council in Woodbridge by noon on Monday 4 April. Polling Stations will be open on Thursday 5 May from 7:00am to 10:00pm and results are expected to be announced on Friday 6 May. There is more on the Parish Council Election on the next page and I would encourage you to read it.

If there is a contested election then the cost of that election process has been set aside in the parish budget. If uncontested and vacancies remain unfilled, the Parish Council will aim to co-opt further members.

In the meantime, if you would like an informal chat about what is involved in being a parish councilor then please do get in touch with either myself [David Long 659342 Parish Chairman, or David Pryke 659554 Vice Chairman].

[David Long - Parish Chairman]

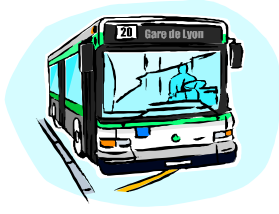
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS



The month of May will see the local Parish Council Elections. The current Parish Councillors believe in democratic election and so would welcome others in the parish to consider standing for election probably alongside some existing members who, we hope you will think, have served the parish well over the last 4 years or more. It would be good to have a complete team of 7 councillors democratically elected through a vote. Parish Councillors are an important grassroots tier of local government and can usually be relied on to have a specialised local knowledge and to be a powerful conduit of local residents' opinions and concerns. By reading our Parish Council newsletters you will have got a flavour of what your parish councillors have and had to deal with over the past few years. Not just local issues, but county and national issues as well. The parish council is an essential part of the structure of local democracy. It's role is to act on behalf of the village to:

- Give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish;
- Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents;
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish;
- Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken;
- And help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

How you vote on the 5th May 2011 is your affair but on that date you are asked to choose our Parish councillors and our District councillors for the next 4 years. ***So please - do take the trouble to come out and vote to ensure you get the best and a full team of parish councillors for Levington.***



NEWS ON FUTURE BUS SERVICES

Your parish council and village bus passengers have been anxiously awaiting the decision from Suffolk County Council on the fate of our village bus service knowing how many of you either rely on it, or wish to go 'green' and leave your cars at home. We reported in the January issue that County Councillors were aiming to cut over 50% of the public transport budget and also make changes to the concessionary bus pass scheme. Well, there is some good news and not so good news! The bad news is that we have lost our DAILY services to and from Ipswich and to Felixstowe. However, in their place are two new services:

- (1) **To Ipswich and return (running just on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays)** starting from Monday 4th April and operated by Beestons Coaches. Depart Levington 10.35hrs - returning from Ipswich at 12.35hrs with an additional return journey at 14.10hrs on school days only.
- (2) **To Felixstowe and return (running on just Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)** - a 'Felixstowe Feeder' service operated by Felixstowe Area Community Transport Services (FACTs). This will not be as straightforward as a normal scheduled bus service, will have restricted hours and must be booked at least one week before you wish to travel. The FACTs transport will do home pick up and take you to the nearest main bus route (the old A45) where you change onto the FIRST buses. This will operate on a six-month trial basis to 1st October. If underused it will cease. Concessionary bus passes will be valid on these journeys.

There is more detailed information on the new bus services enclosed as an A4 sheet with this newsletter.

[Cllr. Pat Pryke- Parish Transport representative]



***YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE
ANNUAL PARISH CLEAR UP***

Lovely, lots of volunteers are what we'd love to see to join the stalwarts of the March litter pick around the parish. As is often said 'Many hands make light work!' Come and join a very worthwhile event to keep our environment looking clean and tidy on:

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH

Starting at 9.30am outside the Village Hall
Equipment provided and you work in twos or groups

MAKE YOUR PARISH LITTER FREE!



***Willing volunteers needed for
A CLEAR UP OF THE RIVER FORESHORE
Starting 10.00am at the Creek***

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL

Lots of lovely volunteers needed again for the Creek/foreshore litter pick. This time you can enhance our wonderful environment and enjoy the river scene and river traffic at the same time! Equipment provided.

LOCAL FOOTPATHS

The Parish Council had been concerned for some time at the state of the public footpath through the meadows at the back of Red House Walk and towards the Decoy House at Nacton. An old wooden boardwalk had rotted and had submerged in the very boggy ground.



Previous state

Organised by the Suffolk County Council Rights of Way team contractors have now built a new sleeper walkway for the benefit of all.



new sleeper walkway

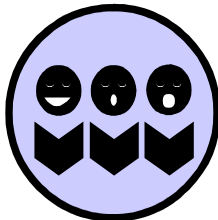


UNDERGROUNDING ELECTRICITY CABLES CONSULTATION

At the March Parish Council meeting, councillors noted the public consultation on National Grid's approach to undergrounding cables closed 16th March 2011. Website questionnaire at: www.nationalgridundergrounding.com. They agreed to support the undergrounding to preserve the environment.

EXTRA CHAIRS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

The Levington Flower Show committee has very kindly donated £260 towards more chairs with arms for the Village Hall. These will be much appreciated and provide more comfort for many. We thank the committee for their generosity. Six chairs are now on order and should be delivered very soon.



A CONCERT OF LIGHT-HEARTED MUSIC

The singing group 'ADHOCTET', who have previously performed in Levington Church, and whose repertoire is from medieval to the present day and 'MELLOW BELLOWS' a group of accordionists, flautist and percussion, who also have a wide-ranging repertoire are combining to present a Spring Saturday night concert of light-hearted music.

7.30pm 19th March at KIRTON CHURCH HALL

Tickets are £7.50 to include supper. Bring you own drinks and glasses. Tickets available from Stephen Harvey (01473) 448780 or Martin Richmond-Hardy (01473 448213).

DO YOU OR YOUR PARTNER HAVE A CARER WHO STAYS OVERNIGHT IN YOUR HOME?

Do you rent your home from a private landlord?

Is the overnight care provided by a carer who doesn't live in your home?

Do you have a room that your carer uses to sleep in overnight?

If the answer to all these questions is yes, then from **April 2011** the help you get with your rent can take account of this.

From April 2011, a bedroom that is used by a carer (or team of carers) who doesn't actually live in your home can be taken into account when working out how much Housing Benefit to pay. In some cases, this could result in an increase in Housing Benefit. But there will also be other changes to the Housing Benefit rules coming in at the same time that may affect any extra that could have been paid. This means that **all** of your circumstances will need to be considered to take account of **all** the new rules to decide whether you can get more money.

Even if your Housing Benefit doesn't increase as a result, it is still in your interest to tell your local authority if you or your partner has this type of care arrangement.

So, if you think that you might be entitled to help with the cost of an extra bedroom that is used by a carer please speak to an adviser or contact the benefits department at Suffolk Coastal District Council. (Sarah Hyman, *Benefits Projects & Landlord Liaison Officer, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU - 01394 444466*).

LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW - Saturday 16th July



SOME ADVANCE NEWS! The Flower Show committee has chosen the following photographic classes for this year's Show.

- (1) 'Gone to seed'
- (2) River bank scene
- (3) A village scene

So ... some very interesting subjects to whet your appetite and to encourage you to get those cameras out and start snapping. There was a superb selection of prints to look at in last year's photographic classes so here's hoping for more of the same this time around.

River bank scene and village scene need no explanation but think about 'Gone to Seed' and what interpretation you could put on that! Flower heads and grasses obviously come to mind, as do other types of plants and vegetables. But what about something entirely different - shabby and uncared for? A person/building/object?

Do have a go at the photographic classes so that you will be well prepared to fill in that section of the Schedule when it pops through your letterboxes in a few months time.



FIRE HYDRANTS IN THE PARISH

Paul Lennox from the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has sent helpful information on how to identify a Hydrant, how to report defects and a list of the 13 hydrants that are spread around Levington and Stratton Hall. *[The Parish Clerk has the list of all their whereabouts]*. The fire hydrant plate is yellow with a large 'H' on it and this would be attached to either a yellow post or a suitable surface such as a wall/fence or pole. The plate has various indications on it.

1. The large black 'H' denotes Hydrant.
2. The first small box at the top indicates the parish number and hydrant number. This number is held on an electronic database at the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Brigade Headquarters.
3. The second box denotes the size of the main the fire hydrant is on.
4. The third box denotes the distance from the plate the hydrant can be located.
5. The plate should also carry a barcode. This barcode is related to the parish number and is zapped every time the hydrant is inspected, usually every 18 months unless a fault occurs.

The Fire Hydrant itself is 400mm below ground, surrounded by a pit chamber and securely covered with a frame and cover that should clearly show 'FH' (Fire Hydrant) within it. Should anything else be indicated on the cover such as 'W/O' (Wash Out) or 'S/V' (Sluice Valve) this means the hydrant belongs to the Water Undertaker and is usually indicated by a grey post and a blue plate. Although fires are not fought from fire hydrants they are used to replenish Fire Service Appliance Vehicles from them and they must be maintained to a high standard.

Any faults to Hydrants please report to **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service** at Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich [Tel: 01473 260565] or email: water.hydrants@Suffolk.gov.uk



Levington WI met on the 9th February and welcomed a new member Heather Wellfare and Doreen Brown, also a Levington resident. The competition on the night was 'A short poem on the WI'. Here are a couple of the winning entries:

LEVINGTON WI - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR

This year sees 50 years of Levington WI
And over 500 meetings have since passed by
During all that time members have come and supported
And minutes each month faithfully reported

Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers have all done their stint
Tea makers, raffle sellers and the committee that meets
But members are what we love most - that's a hint
So do recruit new ones so we continue to meet

Oh dear, where has all that time gone
But time marches quickly when you're having fun
But a warm Village Hall, a good speaker, friendship and tea
Are why WI nights make such a great treat for me.

At the WI, we don't just make jam
Or sandwiches, all filled with ham.
We do all sorts of other things
Such as racing - the sport of Kings!
At meetings we hear some super speakers
It seems there's always something they can teach us.
We are very welcoming to all new faces
Who come with us to some lovely places.
So if *you* ever wondered about the WI
Come along on Wednesday and give it a try!



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

(A REMINDER OF THE NEXT EVENT)

ALICK BARNETT

Will be coming in place of Brian Dyes
With an illustrated talk with slides on

'WHEELS OF IPSWICH - 200 YEARS'

[Ipswich Transport Museum]

7.30pm THURSDAY 10TH MARCH
in the Village Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME

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



HOME HEATING OIL TANK
ADVICE from Suffolk Constabulary

It is not recommended that locks/padlocks be fitted to oil tanks as the potential damage caused by the thief drilling into the tank and then leaving the remaining contents to leak out into the garden once they have filled their own storage containers is significant increased. The cost of the garden clean up would be very high.

[MORE ON HOME HEATING OIL SECURITY in our May edition]



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Census 2011

As was reported in the Parish Council Newsletter in January, this month we shall all receive a census questionnaire through the post that needs to be completed and returned online or by post, before, on or as soon as possible after census day on 27th March 2011. An electronic tracking system will be used to tick off all completed questionnaires returned by post or online.

Doorstep security Census collectors will be out and about visiting households from late March until 6th May 2011. You should only get a visit from a census collector if:

- 1) You haven't returned a completed questionnaire either by post or online.
- 2) You have requested a visit through the census helpline and a census co-ordinator has contacted you to arrange this.

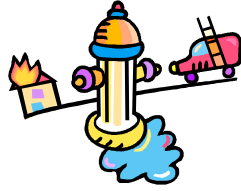
If a census official does call on you they will:

- Always show their 2011 Census photo identity card and ONS (Office for National Statistics) logo.
- Leave a calling card if you are out, reminding you to complete and return your questionnaire, and telling you they will return.
- Offer advice and help about how to complete and return the questionnaire.
- Answer any concerns you may have about privacy and confidentiality.
- Explain how you may get extra help if you have sight, hearing, language or literacy difficulties.
- Provide another questionnaire if yours is mislaid.
- Remind you that taking part is required by law.

What a the census collector will not do is:

- Ask you to provide bank, debit or credit card details.
- Call to deliver your census questionnaire: this is being done by post.
- Ask you to leave your questionnaire on the doorstep or with a neighbour for collection.
- Ask for any personal information other than to confirm your name, address and date of birth.
- Come into your home - unless you invite them.
- Fill in the questionnaire on your behalf: unless you are unable to do so yourself.
- Leave a spare census questionnaire with your neighbour or ask them to provide personal or detailed information about you if you are out.

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



PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Why having a parish emergency plan can be so important. Many of you will have seen in the Press and on TV recently the 'emergency' that Framlingham experienced when more than 1,000 homes in that Suffolk town were without gas supplies for a considerable time after contractors hit a pipeline. Engineers from across the country had to be brought in to help restore supplies. An incident centre had to be set up and alternative heating and cooking facilities were made available as well as help for the elderly and disabled.

Could it happen here? Could there be an incident where we lost our energy supply? We hope not but it is prudent to try and at least be prepared. That is why your parish councillors are working on preparing an emergency plan for Levington and Stratton Hall.

Thank you to the many of you who have returned the parish council questionnaire on the Emergency Plan (57 households so far but we would like more!). It is not too late to send yours in if you have not already done so. Just hand it to any parish councillor. If you have lost or misplaced the letter/questionnaire please speak again to any parish councillor who will obtain you a new one.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 2nd MARCH 2011

The Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors, Pc Paul Smith and one resident who observed the business of the Council. There were no pre-agenda or Village Forum items.

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

Mrs. O'Brien said talks were taking place between the County Council, voluntary groups, parish and town councils and other organisations to discuss the new approach to delivering public services. All Councils across the country have had their government funding reduced by 28% and Suffolk County Council has recognised this situation in their budget for 2011/12. Savings of £43m have to be made in the hardest budget the county has ever had to set. 82% of savings will come by: cutting management, overhead costs, a recruitment and pay freeze for SCC employers and cuts for IT services from the provider Customer Service Direct. 18% of savings are being made by reducing frontline services, including Household Waste Recycling centres and school crossing patrols. Consultation is taking place on the future of the Library Service. Mrs. O'Brien has funds available in 'The Quality of Life Scheme' for minor traffic/highway management projects which could be used for any suitable scheme in Levington and Stratton Hall. *[Parish Councillors had a scheme in mind and this would be progressed and an estimate sought].* Mrs. O'Brien said she intended to stand again for District Councillor at the May elections.

District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer).

Mrs. Falconer advised that there was to be no increase in 2011/12 in Council tax. She indicated that she intended to stand again for District Councillor at the May 5th elections. After the Christmas period, her official duties as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal had gathered momentum with meetings, task groups and briefings on the 'Big Society'. It also included a cold/freezing site visit meeting with officials of the Environment Agency to see the river wall and path at Martlesham which needs much attention. The Joint Working with Waveney District Council sharing top management, HR and IT services, Audit, Planning and Coast Protection had saved the two Authorities about £400,000. Voluntary redundancy for about 20 staff has been made but no actual redundancies.

Police Report

Pc Paul Smith reported two crimes in January and February. (1) overnight on 26th January offenders stole a small amount of diesel from a farm in Levington (awaiting results regarding forensics). (2) Between 14th and 24th February unknown offenders removed a Yamaha motor from a boat moored at the Marina (enquiries are ongoing). There is to be a 'Don't be a Loser' campaign - more information elsewhere in this newsletter. The use of accessible local open spaces by the public was discussed and advice on home heating oil tanks given.

Finance	<p>Parish councillors reviewed the finances and bank balances at the end of February. This showed the forecast for the year was within budget expectations still.</p> <p>The clerk's salary and expenses were approved.</p> <p>It was agreed that donations could now be paid to the Village Hall (£350) and to St. Peter's Church (£150). A third donation to our local primary school would be considered in due course.</p>
Local Development Framework/Draft Core Strategy	<p>Parish Council had formally responded to Suffolk Coastal District Council by letter regarding the Draft Core Strategy. <i>[More elsewhere on the LDF in this newsletter]</i></p>
Emergency Plan	<p>Cllr. Linda Sharp gave a progress report on the Parish Emergency Plan and advised on the next stage.</p>
Localism Bill and Library closures consultation	<p>Noted the concerns of many in the area regarding the proposed closure of libraries by SCC. Also noted that the Mobile Library vans were included in the consultation process.</p>
Fire Service Changes/ Consultation	<p><u>Felixstowe Fire Station Proposal</u>. Due to the consequent reduction in funding for the Fire Service from 2011/12, the Chief Fire Officer, Andy Fry, has advised of proposals to change the crewing arrangement at Felixstowe Fire Station from one where emergency cover is provided between 0800 and 1800 hours seven days a week by full time firefighters, to one where all emergency cover is provided by on-call retained firefighters.</p> <p>Noted Suffolk Fire and Rescue have taken 1.23 acres at Ransomes Europark to construct a new, freehold fire station, replacing the existing one on Colchester Road, Ipswich. This would could benefit Levington being nearer.</p>

Planning Applications	C11/0090 - Two storey extension at 1 Keepers Cottage, Levington. <i>[Supported by Parish Council Planning Committee on 7th February 2011].</i>
Correspondence	Since the January parish council meeting 36 items of correspondence had been received plus various newsletters and monthly digests etc. Of note: Home Farm, Nacton had responded to request for farm to help avoid water coming off field by Z bend going out of the village; notification of newly erected 'Chevron warning sign' at Stratton Hall Drift bend; Local Air Quality particularly re. new crematorium; Proposed closure of libraries, country parks if 'volunteers' do not take up the running of.
Delivery problems for addresses in Bridge Road	After a report at the November Parish Council meeting that some addresses in Bridge Road had trouble with postal deliveries because of duplication of numbering e.g. 1-3 Red House Walk mistaken for 1-3 Bridge Road or 1-3 Walnut Tree cottages, the Parish Clerk raised the issue with the Post Office sorting office. After no response a complaint was logged on 4 January which prompted a generic response that it had been reported to local delivery office. Delivery Office advised that they would ensure 'temp' postmen were better briefed.
Reports from Councillors	Cllr. David Pryke to attend the 'Big Lottery Seminar' at Needham Market on 10 th March. Cllr. Pat Pryke and Cllr. Ian Angus to attend the Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison committee on 10 th March Parish Chairman David Long, Cllr. Pat Pryke and Parish Clerk Marian Rose to attend the Suffolk Association of Local Councils area meeting at Stratford St. Andrew on 7 th March which includes a speaker on 'Data Protection'



FROM INSPECTOR STEVE GALLANT - SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM - "DON'T BE A LOSER" CAMPAIGN

"Don't be a Loser" is the latest campaign being launched by Felixstowe and District Safer Neighbourhood Team. The team will be working in partnership with Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership, Local Councillors and Community Groups. The event will see your local officers and staff getting out into the community to deliver practical crime reduction advice and to assist you to mark and protect your property. Although crime in our town and surrounding villages remains low we are still seeing thefts occurring from insecure cars and homes. I am calling on you to do your bit to help prevent crime. It amazes and frustrates me that some people still leave their vehicles and homes insecure and property on open display. They make it far too easy for would be thieves. Another frustration for us is that when we do retrieve what we believe to be stolen property we struggle to identify its rightful owner. If only people would mark it with their postcode or note the serial numbers we would be able to get it back to them. The team will be out and about over the next few weeks knocking on doors, introducing themselves and giving practical help. I hope that if they call at your home you will spare the time to listen and act on the information they offer. Clearly we can't get around every household so we are targeting areas where we know thieves have been operating. However, if anyone would like to arrange a visit they only have to contact the team. All my staff will be in uniform and they will carry identification. If you have any doubt about the identity of any caller to your home - don't let them in - ask for Id and check them out. You will never offend a genuine caller by doing so.

[Inspector Steve Gallant]

P.S. The Safer Neighbourhood Team police aim to visit Levington on Tuesday 29th March and Sunday 17th April.

A STORY OF A NEST BOX IN TRICKERS WOOD!



As part of last year's entry in Anglia in Bloom, young people made bird boxes which were subsequently put up on trees in the churchyard and Trickers Wood. We hope the boxes will have residents in the Spring. In the meantime, shown at Derek and David's Christmas Film Show was a photo of one of the nest boxes where not birds had taken up residence but hornets!! The nest, built of paper combs, formed from chewed wood or plant fibres had not only filled the inside of the box but was wrapped around most of the outside as well! The supply of wood had, it seems, come from our Parish Chairman's back garden given some very badly chewed up logs there at the time and the hornets flying about!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting (which, it must be stressed, is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council) is a forum for local residents to discuss parish affairs and give annual reports. As this Parish has a Parish Council, it is the Council's Chairman who must convene and, if present, chair the meeting. The agenda will be on village noticeboards nearer the time. We hope you will support this meeting and come and hear the annual reports from our County and District Councillors, our local Police, our Parish Council and village organisations and village recorder.

THE VILLAGE DIARY

Wednesday 9 th March	7.30pm WI 'Your Local Fire Service and Fire Safety in the Home' (Village Hall)
Thursday 10 th March	7.30pm LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB 'Wheels of Ipswich – 200 years' (Village Hall)
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Sunday 13 th March	3.00pm EVENSONG (St. Peter's Church)
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Sunday 20 th March	11.00am MORNING PRAYER (St. Peter's Church)
Saturday 26 th March	9.30am PARISH LITTER PICK (start Village Hall)
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Sunday 27 th March	10.00am ALL AGE WORSHIP (St. Peter's Church)
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MOTHERING SUNDAY	
Sunday 3 rd April	10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION with distribution of Mothering Sunday posies (St. Peter's Church)
Wednesday 6 th April	7.30pm ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Village Hall)
Friday 8 th April	7.30pm FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S AGM
Saturday 9 th April	From 9.30am CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP
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Sunday 10 th April	3.00pm EVENSONG (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 12 th April	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 13 th April	7.30pm WI 'Farming Heritage/Farm Retail' (V Hall)
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Sunday 17 th April	11.00am PALM SUNDAY SERVICE (St. Peter's Church) with distribution of palm crosses
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EASTER SUNDAY	
Sunday 24 th April	11.15am FAMILY COMMUNION (St. Peter's)
Thursday 28 th April	7.30pm LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB AGM (Village Hall)
Saturday 30 th April	10.00am at the Creek CLEAR UP FORESHORE
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Sunday 1 st May	10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (Church)
Thursday 5 th May	PARISH & DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION DAY
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Sunday 8 th May	6.30pm EVENSONG (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 10 th May	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
	7.15pm PARISH COUNCIL (Village Hall)

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB OUTING
TO ANGLESEY ABBEY to see the snowdrops and
winter gardens**



The Gardening Club outing to see the winter garden at Anglesey Abbey on 25 February was a great success. Twenty five villagers and friends made the trip and enjoyed a lovely dry, mild day. One of the seven full time gardeners gave a guided tour to see the famous display of snowdrops as well as gorgeous hellebores and the iconic silver birch trees. We learned that there are over 200 varieties of snowdrops in their national collection.

Some of these are so rare they sell for £35 each! But fortunately the more common varieties were available at much more reasonable prices and the coach was certainly heavier on the way home as several boxes of plants purchased in the garden centre found their way back to Levington gardens!

[Marian Rose]

THANK
YOU

to everyone who attended the two film evenings recording the past year of life in Levington in December and January organised by Derek Girling and David Pryke. Your support has enabled them to hand over £256.00 to the Village Hall Treasurer towards Village Hall projects.



LUNCHEON CLUBBERS, bringing their own wine or soft drinks, enjoyed another superb meal at the February Luncheon Club of Chicken in BBQ sauce, new potatoes and peas and for dessert, marmalade pudding. In March, it will be chilli pork casserole followed by pancakes. Well - the day will be Shrove Tuesday so pancakes are a must aren't they!



OPERATION STACK

You might like to consider if you would like to receive email 'Alert Notices' from the Port of Felixstowe. These will not necessarily guarantee to tell you that Stack is to be implemented [although Alerts do tell hauliers when Stack is in place]. However, it does tell you when Port operations are disrupted through adverse weather or other circumstances.

To register to receive the Port messages please go to <http://www.portoffelixstowe.co.uk/alerts/frmSubscribe.asp> and subscribe.



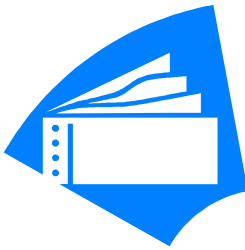
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES in St. Peter's Church, Levington

PALM SUNDAY 17th April:

Distribution of Palm Crosses at 11.00 a.m. Morning Service led by
(Reader) Edna Collins

EASTER SUNDAY 24th April:

11.15am Family Holy Communion led by
the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Grant



NACTON SCHOOL WANTS VOUCHERS

Over the next few months Nacton School is again collecting vouchers from all the stores, which enables the school to purchase useful equipment for the pupils. Last year they collected tens of thousands and **IT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

Please drop any that you collect into Ian Angus at Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Lane and he will see that they are added to the school collection.

Is this Mr Cameron's 'Big Society' at work?!

Thank you very much.
(Cllr. Ian Angus)

NEWS FROM NACTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School celebrates Centenary

Nacton CEVC Primary School launched its centenary celebrations with the last 100 years coming alive. Children and staff were invited to dress in a style from an earlier decade and the response as always was fantastic, so many creative ideas. A real blast from the past!

Every decade was represented including suffragettes, flapper girls, evacuees, World War II pilots, flower children of the sixties, rockers and punks. While having fun, the school also raised £90 for the UNICEF Day for Change appeal. This year the appeal is fundraising to support children in Guyana who suffer from the effects of climate change. It has also been a great way to launch our centenary and theme for this year, 'Nacton, flourishing for the future.'

We invite former pupils and friends of the school to share their memories with us.

Go to www.school-portal.co.uk; click on N, then Nacton CEVC Primary School, to take you to our Learning Platform linking home and school. A further click on 'Celebrating our centenary' gives instructions for you to tell us what makes our school special.

Home Farm, Nacton, keeping us safer

Our thanks to Home Farm, Nacton, who have sponsored the school with fluorescent jackets complete with the school logo for our walks up to the Church. Staff are so impressed by the jackets that our Midday Supervisors and staff on playground duty are wearing them too.

Our thanks to Home Farm for their significant contribution to community safety.

Thanks to OOCL, Levington

Our thanks to OOCL, Levington, who have supported the school with a donation of £500. During our Centenary Year, the focus is on the development of a Wildlife Area in the school grounds. We intend putting the donation towards a feature for the Area. The school is working with Kate Parish of Eastfeast in establishing the Area and two artists through Creative Partnerships in making natural sculptures and 'minibeast motels' to make the area attractive for both pupils and wildlife to enjoy.

Elizabeth M. Ditton
Headteacher



COFFEE MORNINGS START UP AGAIN SOON FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Now we are well into the New Year, we eagerly await the start up of the Monday morning coffee hours in the Village Hall for 2011 and Jo Wenham confirms they will commence mid-to end of April. So do watch noticeboards for the start date and no doubt word of mouth will also help to get the news round. A band of people meets regularly to discuss anything and everything over tea, coffee and (usually homemade shortbread!). The Coffee Morning is open to everyone. It's an excellent way for newcomers to the village to meet a lot of people very quickly. The Produce Table will again feature. Come and pick up some homemade pies, cakes, scones, quiches and fresh bread. Produce on offer varies from week to week. It flies off the table so don't be late arriving!



BENEFICE EVENSONG SERVICES IN LENT

Benefice Evensong services using the Book of Common Prayer will be held in four of our five local churches as follows:

Time 3.00 pm

Lent 1 March 13th Levington

Lent 2 March 20th Bucklesham

Lent 3 March 27th Falkenham

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday) April 3rd Kirton

Lent 5 April 10th Levington: FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

For many people the Book of Common Prayer Evensong is a particularly beautiful service although rather neglected today. It is a peaceful service offering the opportunity to sing Magnificat and Nunc Dimmitis, as well as some of the evening hymns which are not heard during our regular morning worship. It will also be an opportunity to use the Authorised Version of the Bible whose publication 400 years ago is being celebrated this year. We hope that people from all five parishes will support as many of these services as they can.

A Benefice Choir will make the services even better. We probably will not be able to organise practices but a group of competent singers to go round each church and give a good lead will enhance our worship no end. Two heroic souls have already volunteered from Bucklesham. Anyone else please contact me as shown below.

Stephen Harvey

01394 448780

stephen@harvey07.demon.co.uk

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK and THE REVISED DRAFT CORE STRATEGY

The Parish Council at its March meeting noted that Suffolk Coastal District Council has had to delay decisions on the plans for thousands of homes in Suffolk over the next 20 years (which would include the large development proposed for the BT Aadastral site at Martlesham) and a special council meeting planned to approve its Reviewed Core Strategy for its Local Development Framework had to be cancelled after Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) had produced a visitor survey which showed that thousands of people travelled across the district to use the local forests and wildlife sites and which argued that with hundreds of new homes due to be built every year - 446 earmarked every year until 2027, the impact on those sites open to the public had not been properly considered. Of particular concern to SWT was the rise in the number of dog walkers, particularly dogs off their leads, which could affect ground nesting birds.

Suffolk Coastal District councillors have taken legal advice on receiving the survey with a response that they should consider its impact and analysis of the visitor study is to be carried out. The extra work will take some time to complete and the Strategy could be delayed by several months and possibly complicated by the local elections coming up in May. Thus BT's plans for 2,000 homes at Martlesham faces further delays.

Under UK regulations based on the European Habitats Directive, the District Council must now take time to consider the relevance of the visitor study and its possible effect on habitats. SWT considered not enough attention had been paid to the impact of extra housing development and extra population on our wildlife and conservation areas and considered more work was necessary to assess the impact of a large influx of people on those areas.

VILLAGE RECORDER



We are still hoping someone will come forward and take over the role of Village Recorder later in the summer.

As we reported in the January newsletter, Derek and Rosanne Girling wish to relinquish this role which they have done for more than 30 years.

Derek has kindly provided a list of what they have been recording over those years to give you some idea of what is involved.

1. Record rainfall, temperature etc. (Derek Girling to continue)
2. Monthly diary of events and happenings incl. unusual weather
3. Monthly nature diary: unusual birds, animals, & insects: first cuckoo, first swallows, house-martins, swifts etc; first ducks, geese in Autumn
4. Photographic record
5. Collect & file: Church Mags, Parish Council Newsletters, posters advertising village events etc.
6. Keep scrapbook of newspaper cuttings
7. Liaise with village organisations
8. Assist with exhibitions and film shows.

So does anyone out there feel they are able to take on the village recorder role or part of it? Please let any member of the Parish Council know if you are able to help.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

in St. Peter's Church, Levington



Sunday April 3rd

10.00a.m Family Communion Service

[Mothering Sunday posies will be handed out]



FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S 2011 AGM

A reminder that The Friends of St. Peter's will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Friday 8th April in the Village Hall.

The AGM business will be followed by the incomparable Roy Tricker giving a talk on 'Eccentric Clergymen!' There will be a finger buffet and drinks to end the evening.



2011 CENSUS

We mentioned it in the last newsletter but now the month of the Census has now arrived this is just to remind you that on 27 March 2011 everyone in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a Census. But why the need for a Census? A census is needed because a lot has changed in the last ten years. Government needs know how the population has increased, where people live and what services they need. The best way to find out is to carry out a count and ask a few questions - the responses will be completely confidential but the information collected is valuable in planning for the future.

Census day is **SUNDAY 27TH MARCH 2011**.

What do you have to do? Your questionnaire envelope will come through your door in the middle of this month. You'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. The questionnaire includes details of how to fill it in and how to get help if you need it. You can complete it as soon as you wish and send it back in the envelope provided. If you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code will be on the front of the questionnaire.

Don't forget that it is a legal requirement to complete the Census

If not completed you may be fined up to £1,000

**CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP MORNING at
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, LEVINGTON
SATURDAY 9TH APRIL**

The Spring Churchyard clear up morning is Saturday 9th April. Do come along, with tools, if you can between 9.30am and 12 noon. Refreshments mid-morning give a welcome break!

Marian Rose Tel: 01473 659638 Friends of St Peter's



**LEVINGTON GARDENING
CLUB**

**7.30pm Wednesday 16th March
in the Village Hall:**

Talk on **GARDEN DESIGN/BED IN A BOX**
By Jane Hamblin of Land Army Designs

DON'T MISS THIS INTERESTING EVENING

£3.00 on the door to include refreshments. Raffle.
ALL WELCOME



DON'T FORGET - Time to put the clocks forward as British Summer Time begins on Sunday 28th March. So alter your clocks **SATURDAY** night 27th March. I hate losing an hour's sleep every year! I feel cheated ... I know the extra hour in the winter should make up for it - **BUT IT DOESN'T!** Expect me to be grumpy all day!

[Your Editor]

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The next PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

*is in the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 10th MAY 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 and District 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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[Member of SALC -the Suffolk Association of Local Councils]

FROM: LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

**IMPORTANT NEWS ON CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE BUS SERVICE
FROM 4TH APRIL 2011**

As part of the Suffolk County Council's public transport budget cuts, bus services have been reviewed and Levington (and Nacton) will lose their daily bus services to Ipswich and Felixstowe from 4th April but have retained a reduced service to run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to Ipswich and return. On the other days, i.e. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays a 'FELIXSTOWE FEEDER' (demand responsive service) is to be introduced. More on this overleaf.

HERE IS THE NEW TIMETABLE FOR THE 163 SERVICE TO IPSWICH

(NB: the 14.10hrs from Ipswich runs every school day (Mondays-Fridays)

All other timings are for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays)

Ipswich - Nacton - Levington

163

Please Note: Most journeys operate Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays Only

From: 4th April
2011

Operator:	BE	BE	IB
Service:	163	163	163
Notes:	1TThS	1TThS	1Sch

Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station	--	1235	1410
Warren Heath, Murrills Road, Nr Sainsbury's	--	1247	1412
Nacton, Memorial	--	1250	1425
Levington, Village Hall	--	1252	1427
Levington, Levington Park	--	1257	1432
Levington, Levington Park	1035	1258	1433
Levington, Village Hall	1036		
Nacton, Memorial	1041		
Warren Heath, Murrills Road, Nr Sainsbury's	1046		
Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station	1101	1323	
Trimley St Mary, Faulkeners Way	--	--	1441
Walton, Half Moon PH	--	--	1446
Felixstowe, Great Eastern Square	--	--	1451

Code:

**TThS - Operates Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Only**

Sch - Schooldays Only

Operator Code:

BE - Beestons

IB - Ipswich Buses Ltd

NEW 'FEEDER' BUS SERVICE TO FELIXSTOWE *Operating on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only*

The 163 daily service will be replaced by a pre-booked 'FELIXSTOWE FEEDER' service as from Monday 4th April.

WHAT IS THE 'FELIXSTOWE FEEDER' SERVICE?

This is a 'Demand Responsive Transport' service which provides connections to Felixstowe, Ipswich and Martlesham/Woodbridge bus links from the villages of Levington and Nacton. It will be operated by Felixstowe Area Community Transport Services (FACTs).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

If you wish to travel to Felixstowe (or Ipswich) the FACTs vehicle will pick you up from your home or a pre-agreed point in the village. Remember it is a 'feeder' service which means it will only take you to main line bus routes so in the case of Levington if you wanted to travel onwards to Felixstowe (or Ipswich) the mini-bus would take you to the Bus Shelter on the Levington Old A45. Here you would stay on the 'feeder' bus until the FIRST bus (say 75 or 76) arrives and you would transfer onto that bus. Coming back from Felixstowe (or Ipswich) you would take a FIRST bus to Levington Railway Bridge and the FACTs bus would be waiting your arrival to bring you back into the village. *N.B. The 'Feeder' could also take you to the Trimley St. Martin, Link Road, bus shelter where you could change onto the 10.46am 173 bus service to Woodbridge but you would have to return on the 1.45pm service to keep within the 'Feeder' hours of operation.*

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The journey will be charged like a bus fare but please note concessionary bus passes will be valid on these journeys

WHEN CAN YOU GO?

The hours are restricted to between 10.00am and 3.00pm. It has to be confirmed though whether this means the FACTs bus leaves their Felixstowe depot at 10.00am and must be back in the depot by 3.00pm in which case the hours are even more restrictive!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO USE THE SERVICE?

Simply call **01394 270339** between the hours of 1.00pm and 4.00pm Monday to Friday UP TO A WEEK BEFORE YOU WISH TO TRAVEL and book your journey. Bookings are on a first come, first served basis. FACTs will want to know what time bus you wish to catch on the old A45.

PLEASE NOTE:

The FACTs 'Feeder' bus is not allowed to take you directly to Felixstowe or Ipswich as the FIRST commercial bus company has the licence for this route.

IMPORTANT

This new service is on trial for just 6 months until 1st October 2011. If it is underused it will cease.

I WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS/FEEDBACK IF YOU USE THIS SERVICE.

If you have any queries please contact me: Cllr. Pat Pryke – Parish Transport representative for Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council (Tel: 659554) or email: pat.pryke@O2.co.uk