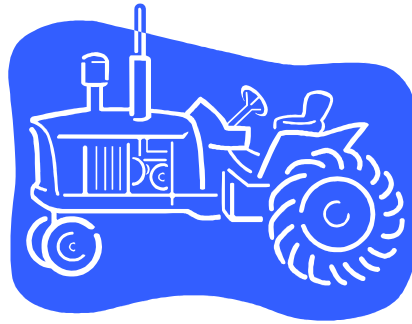


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*LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL*

***PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER***



**SEPTEMBER 2009**

*[Color ENGLAND Village of the Year 2008]*

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

Dear Villager - Welcome to the September 2009 edition of the Parish Council newsletter.

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

#### **LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW 2009**

Once again, the Levington Flower Show was a great success and the afternoon enjoyed by everyone, especially those who won prizes! More reporting and pictures of the Flower Show elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### **ANGLIA IN BLOOM COMPETITION**

Well - not long to wait now to find out how Levington has done in Anglia in Bloom 2009. A few of the 'Bloomers' team are able to go to the Awards event in Gorleston (*not on a freebie I might add but paying their own expenses!*). So we thank them for their community spirit.

We hope many of you who attended the July Flower Show took the opportunity to look at the Portfolio and display stand that had been part of our Anglia in Bloom presentation.

#### **ONWARDS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL ....**

By the time you read this newsletter several of our local children will have moved on to the next stage of their education - from our local primary schools to the larger secondary schools and other schools in the area. So we wish them all well and hope they settle into their new surroundings quickly and successfully.

#### **AUTUMN AND WINTER**

After the summer months, dark nights will soon be on their way so why not while away the autumn/winter months by joining in some of the village events and meetings. You will see in this newsletter, there are many coming up over the next few months and all would enjoy your support.

[David Long - Parish Chairman]

**A Sting in the Tale!** Now all say 'ouch' as recently when our Parish Chairman was diligently cutting the hedge around his garden he accidentally disturbed a wasp's nest. They retaliated by stinging him 7 times before he managed to run indoors for cover! It's a good job his lovely wife Sally has some nursing experience! A bit of TLC was needed when she got home from work that night

## LEVINGTON ENTERS ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Our July newsletter went to the printers on the same day as the Anglia in Bloom Judges visited Levington so there was little time to report the event other than they arrived. The judging took place over the lunch-hour and the 'Levington Bloomers' team offered the judges a light lunch in the Village Hall. *[We ought to get a Gold certificate on the strength of Diana Hawtin's wonderful sponge she made fresh that morning and the flowers on the table and in the toilets courtesy of Caroline Young].* Soft drinks and wine (in moderation!) were offered. Not wanting to bribe or imbibe the judges too much you understand! But they did say at a previous judging the wine bottles were kept under the table to be consumed after they had gone! So we think they appreciated some 'Levington' hospitality!



*[Some of the 'Levington Bloomers' team with (in the centre) the two judges Paul Corfield and Hazel Law] Photo contributed by Sally Long.*

After lunch a tour of the village commenced stopping off at various points along the way including the OOCL/Scotts/BDK area and St. Peter's Church and the Church field area. Both of these last two areas have been entered into special categories for Awards for the 'Best Industrial/Commercial' and 'Best Conservation Area'. The judges admired the cannon, noted the roadside plantings and flowers in the clean telephone box! The In-Bloom's key words were "community involvement" and the judges did not fail to note this in Levington. The 'Awards' will be announced at a lunch in Gorleston on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. This day is also the Levington Gardening Club evening in the Village Hall so the 'Bloomers' team hope to be back in time for Gardening Club with some news - optimistic as ever!! A big thank you to the 'Levington Bloomers' team and everyone else in the community who worked so hard to keep the Village looking so wonderful on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

## 2009 LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW REPORT

On Saturday 18th July, Levington held its 54th Flower Show, and what a success it was. The weather was fine and sunny, which enabled visitors to enjoy their refreshments outside, sample the ice-creams, buy plants and produce, books, or greetings cards and cakes at the various stalls. The raffle was also well supported, and what a lovely array of prizes there was for which we thank the many businesses and individuals who kindly donated them. Thanks must go to Caroline and Barry; Alison; and the W.I. for manning their usual stalls, and to the two friends who brought along their cards for sale. There must have been a record attendance, as the hall was buzzing all afternoon. It was good to have Rev. Canon Geoffrey Grant and Wendy with us. Geoffrey kindly officially opened the Show, and they both enjoyed the afternoon so much they stayed until prize giving at 4.30 p.m. when Geoffrey presented the prizes.

There were approximately 250 entries this year. Although the flower classes were slightly down on last year, mainly due to the rain we had days before the show which ruined the rose entries, the cookery classes were well up, and certainly gave Mrs. Peggy Cole (Judge), a very busy time.

It would be nice to have more youngsters aged 15 and under taking part, and yet at the same time it was good to see a few new names amongst the entries - well done to you all. Special mention must be made of Lauren Byford who entered many exhibits in all kinds of classes and not just the children's section. In fact she had success also in the Cookery Class and the Fruit and Vegetable section. She was a really worthy winner of the Dawson Cup - very well done Lauren.

Another magnificent entry came from Melissa Matthews who made a dolls house from cardboard, and furnished it throughout from odds and ends. This so took the Judge's eye, that she has mentioned it in her column she writes in the East Anglian Daily Times. So well done Melissa, your entry gave many people a lot of pleasure to see it.

Well done to everyone who exhibited. Congratulations to all the winners and commiserations to those who weren't so fortunate. We do hope however that you will all be back next year to put on another good show.



*[Mick Sheppard receiving the Cooper Cup for the Best Vegetable Garden]*

The Committee would like to sincerely thank all who helped in whatever capacity on the days leading up to the show in preparing the village hall and to Bob Hardwick for judging the gardens. Also to the judges on Show Day for giving their time to do so. We must not forget to especially thank Samantha Bullard, who this year wrote out all the entry cards to help out her mother Christine, the Show Day Secretary. Well done Samantha.



The Flower Show judges and organisers working hard so that the Show could open on time at 3.00pm.



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

*Well recommended speaker:*  
Stuart Bowell on  
**'EAST ANGLIAN DIALECT'**

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

Prepare to hear some 'silly Suffolk' and to listen to some 'squit'. Stuart delves with great skill and humour into the story and background of Suffolk's unique dialect so do come along. We expect this to be a very popular event!

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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



**SOPHIE CLARE** arrives safely. We are delighted to hear the news that yet another baby has been born in Levington! Over the last two years or so we have been experiencing what for us here in Levington is a **BABY BOOM!** So many **congratulations again to Clare and Simon Ringland in Red House Walk** for the recent safe arrival of their second child Sophie Clare who arrived safely on 12<sup>th</sup> August. A much welcome addition to our village community.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### **Avoid becoming a victim of crime this winter**

With days getting shorter more quickly now, we are reminded that unfortunately autumn and winter are on their way. Every year a rise in burglaries is seen as the clocks go back and the evenings draw in with longer and darker nights. Often there can be tell tale signs for burglars when homes are empty.

If you are off to work in the morning and don't return home until 6pm or 7pm your home could have been in darkness for several hours. Part of the problem is that many of us assume that burglary won't happen to us which clearly is not true. Crime prevention advice is intended to reinforce our own security precautions and everyone is responsible for the safety and security of their own home and property.

### **We can make a difference**

In over a third of reported break-ins the criminal has not forced an entry at all; a door or window has been left insecure. There are a number of simple measures that can be taken as part our life style to prevent break-ins:

- ✓ Close and lock all doors especially overnight.
- ✓ Double lock your front door.
- ✓ Do not leave vehicle or house keys by the front door.
- ✓ Ensure your vehicles are locked even if you have a gated entrance.
- ✓ If you have a security alarm, ensure it is operational and active over night.
- ✓ Prevent open access to the rear of your home using an appropriate fence, hedge or gate.
- ✓ Use an energy efficient light bulb and invest in a timer. Place the lamp near the front door or window, but not directly in view, to give the impression that someone is home.

Take the opportunity to security mark all your valuables using the postcode and house number.

## VETERAN'S DAY EXHIBITION- LEVINGTON REMEMBERS - WEEKEND 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST

A weekend of good weather and great support from residents and many visitors from outside the village, the Veteran's Day Exhibition was a resounding success. The Exhibition showed town and village life during WWII and, of course, this included the local Home Guard, ARP, food and clothing rationing etc. There was also an extensive display of armed services with models, uniforms, photos, newspapers and local memorabilia. The 'collection' must be one of the best for miles around and that includes some museums!



A HUGE thank you to Derek Girling and his colleague Philip Evans as we know how much thought and hard work went into putting on this Exhibition. Their model making and set pieces were to be commended and the display of historical artefacts so interesting. Reward for all their hard work? A constant stream of visitors and £405 raised for Village Hall projects. Thank you to everyone who paid the £2 entry fee and to those who gave an extra donation many thanks. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated. Thanks also to Rosanne Girling for 'overseeing' the NAAFI and to everyone who provided cakes etc. for the sale of refreshments. Thanks also for those who manned the door and assisted with putting up and taking down the Exhibition.



## LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB 9<sup>th</sup> July

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, members and non-members of the History Club were intrigued by the title of local author Pip Wright's talk "Frolic Fervour and Fornication" and we were not disappointed. Pip has spent many years examining ancient documents and records that once lay in the parish chests of Suffolk villages and gave us some insight into life as it was centuries ago. For the first time in 1538, Thomas Cromwell, Vicar General of King Henry VIII, ordered Parish Registers to be kept.

Pip explained that before then, Parish record keeping was a disorganised business, with notes of any births, marriages, deaths and other notable local events kept on scraps of paper in the parish chest in the church by the local vicar. What was kept in the chest was dependent on the efficiency of the vicar. Even after then many parishes do not have complete records. Hardly any records exist from 1641-1651 as many parish registers were destroyed during the English Civil War.

As well as being a fascinating subject we were kept amused and entertained by the additional notes of some vicars who had added their personal point of view to some records, especially the paternity of some of the births, and the suitability of some marriage unions! His stance would surely be deemed very politically incorrect nowadays!

Pip has written many local history books which he offered for sale afterwards. We are very pleased that Pip is also coming to talk to us again next year (October 2010) about Suffolk Witches.

Last time I opened our Parish chest to do the cleaning, I just found a "Henry" and some feather dusters but perhaps there are a few secrets to be told hidden in the woodwork! I wonder what would have been written about the frolicking and fornication of today?.....More tea vicar?

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

## LEVINGTON HALL - Reminiscences of GEOFF STEBBINGS

I did not expect that anybody would have personal recollections of the Rogers family after all it is fifty six years since I saw them. However should anything turn up I would be very interested to be kept informed. My memories of Levington Hall date from 1948-53 and are rather scant but I remember that we used the driveway at the bottom of the hill coming down from the Ship and drove along turning right up through some apple trees to park outside the kitchen garden potting shed. Pheasants used to nest in that area every year. There was a Loganberry tree there and just further down was Peter's bungalow.

At the time there was a local poacher who I only remember as 'Fred' and he used to set gin traps in the woodland. Peter and my father were rightly very disapproving of the traps and I remember helping to remove a hare from one of these once. As already noted Peter kept the kitchen garden well stocked to the extent that he could sell some of the produce to my father for the shop we had on Felixstowe Road. Just outside the garden was what appeared to me to be an enormous Walnut tree and the walnuts were also gathered when they ripened - I still remember the fantastic taste of a walnut straight from the tree with a bit of salt as opposed to dried up alternatives we get at Xmas now! The pond used to have wild Mallard fly in at night and often my father and Peter would go and shoot them. Also Peter used to let my father shoot on the remaining ground for rabbits and pheasants. Sometimes they would borrow the local gamekeeper's ferrets and go after rabbits. We used to go long netting for rabbits. This involved a net of between 50 and 100 yards long which was set up in complete darkness and, more important, silence along a hedge then everybody would go to the other end of the field and walk across scaring any rabbits back to their burrows and into the net. There were quite a lot of deer in the area then but in spite of his best efforts my father never managed to 'bag' one of them for the pot. With meat still rationed one would have been quite a prize.

Peter had a brother in law who was more my age (I was about ten he was thirteen) and we found an open window in the Hall which was at the time empty and we would go in and 'explore'. My only impression of the inside is of what appeared at the time to be a grand staircase but even that may just be a figment of my imagination. Just beyond Peter's bungalow there was a path through the wood (now an access road) to the lane which went past the end of the Creek. There was a stream which ran into the Creek and my father used to gather water cress there - again to sell in the shop.

If anyone has any information about the Rogers family I would be pleased to hear from you.

*[Please contact Parish Councillor Ian Angus in the first instance].*



## LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW RESULTS 2009

THE CUPS WERE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Pemberton Cup - Most Points in Division I (Fruit & Vegetables)**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Nancy Matthews

Runner - up - Mr. M. Sheppard

**Ravenshear Cup - Most Points in Division II (Flowers)**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Roseanne Girling

Runner-up - Mrs. C. Young

**Cookery & Handicraft Cup (Joyce Bugg Trophy) - Most Points in Division III & IV**

1<sup>st</sup> Mrs. Diane Willstead

Joint Runners-up - Mrs. C. Bullard and Mrs. D. Ralph

**Dawson Cup (Child with most points)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lauren Byford

Runner-up Melissa Matthews

**Desmond Duck (Best child's painting) - Melissa Matthews**

**Cooper Cup (Best Vegetable Garden)**

1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Michael Sheppard

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. P. Owen

3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs. N. Matthews

**Allerton Rose Bowl (Best Flower Garden)**

1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Michael Matthews

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. D. Willstead

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr. & Mrs. T. Rose

**Rookyard Shield (Best Fuchsia) - Mrs. Diane Willstead.**

**Child's Pot Plant (Marigold)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lauren Byford

2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Stirling-Yeatman

3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Cook

**WHAT'S ON - THE VILLAGE DIARY**

Every Monday morning	10.00-11.00am Village Hall <b>COFFEE MORNING</b>
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Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	12.30pm <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> (Village Hall) (Booked places only - contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm <b>WI 'Turkish Cuisine'</b> - Jennifer Gibbs (V. Hall)
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE</b>
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Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>EVENSONG</b> (St. Peter's Church) 6.30pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45am <b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b> (Bridge Rd layby)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>ANGLIA IN BLOOM Awards Day</b> (Gorleston)
" " "	7.30pm <b>GARDENING CLUB</b> ( <i>Garden Ponds</i> ) Village Hall
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Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	11.00am <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> (St. Peter's Church)
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Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	No church service at Levington. Congregation invited to join Nacton's Harvest Festival with Bishop Rt. Rev. Nigel Stock
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45am <b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b> (Bridge Road layby)
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Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30pm <b>LOCAL HISTORY CLUB</b> (Stuart Bowell) (V. Hall)
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Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30pm <b>CHORAL EVENSONG</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	10.45am <b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b> (Bridge Rd layby)
" " "	12.30pm <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> (Village Hall) (Booked places only - contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30pm <b>WI 'The Work of St. Dunstans'</b> (Village Hall)
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Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	11.00am <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	7.30pm <b>GARDENING CLUB</b> (Bob Hardwick) Village Hall
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Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am <b>MORNING SERVICE</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	10.45am <b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b> (Bridge Rd layby)
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Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	10.00am <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	7.15pm <b>PARISH COUNCIL MEETING</b> (Village Hall)

## **SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Parish Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors, and one resident to the meeting.

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

*[Following the May local government elections nine County Councillors were appointed to the Suffolk Police Authority. Mrs. O'Brien was one of them].* In her new role as a County Councillor member of the Suffolk Police Authority, Mrs. O'Brien had visited some local police stations and attended an induction session for new Police Authority members. The Chief Constable had given an overview of Suffolk Constabulary and Inspectors had described their particular department's responsibilities. *[With her new 'police' involvement, Mrs. O'Brien, at the request of this Parish Council, has agreed to speak to County Councillor Guy McGregor, the Roads and Transport Portfolio Holder, to express Levington & Stratton Hall parish councillors' dissatisfaction and frustration at receiving very late or no response to their letters regarding Operation Stack].* Mrs O'Brien also said she had written to John Gummer MP regarding the BT planning application and was awaiting a reply

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

A visit to the Foxhall Waste tip to view the way Green Waste is turned into compost proved very enlightening. The enormous new pit was also seen which will take non-recyclable waste for the next 10 years or so. The amount of rubbish that goes into landfill is decreasing each year with much better recycling. As Vice-Chairman of the District Council Mrs. Falconer had carried out various functions including the opening of the new skateboard park at Orwell Green, Felixstowe. Mrs. Falconer mentioned the revised BT planning application which, as the Local Development Framework (LDF) is out for further consultation, may not be decided until January 2010. She also recommended the Parish Council to continue making its views known on the huge amount of housing development proposed both on the BT site and at Felixstowe with a further 3,600 houses through the Suffolk Coastal district.

**Police Report** Pc Mike Crisp had sent his report. He reported 3 crimes - all thefts. 12<sup>th</sup> July – an insecure car left at the Marina had a disabled parking permit stolen from the glove compartment. Between 25<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August a motorboat left unattended next to Bob Spalding's premises at the Marina was entered and water skiing equipment stolen. On 17<sup>th</sup> August a secure and unattended car parked at the Creek was entered by smashing the rear quarter light window and a wallet stolen that had been left on display. On the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> August, Pc Crisp attended a report of a possible burglary in progress at a house in Red House Walk where the occupants were away on holiday and a van was seen on the driveway and the front door open. It turned out builders were legitimately carrying out work for the occupiers. However, Pc Crisp said this demonstrated the excellent community spirit and observations from the informant to report the matter. Too often crimes in progress are seen and not reported until it is too late. A close and tight knit community such as Levington goes a long way in crime prevention. PC Crisp also advised that the Police had been receiving a number of reports, which had and are being investigated, of vehicles with single male occupants parked in the old A45 layby on the left towards the T-junction..

<b>Finance Issues</b>	Noted the Internal Audit report had been received duly signed by Heelis and Lodge. Noted the External Audit Report had also been received duly signed by BDO Stoy Hayward. Following these reports the Finance Advisory Committee will look in more detail at risk assessment. Various payments were agreed including the clerk's salary and expenses.
<b>New Parish Clerk appointment</b>	Mrs. Marian Rose will take up the role of Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Clerk as from the November Parish Council meeting. We wish Marian success in her new role. Mrs. Jean Ruthen will also attend the November meeting as the official hand-over takes place. <i>[There will be more details in the November Parish Council newsletter especially a vote of thanks to Jean for being our Parish Clerk since May 2003].</i>
<b>Local Government Re-organisation in Suffolk</b>	A decision on local government re-organisation in Suffolk has been delayed due to a High Court Judicial Review on the Boundary Commission's consultations.
<b>Local Development Framework (LDF)</b>	Suffolk Coastal District Council agreed a further round of consultation on changes to the housing distribution. Consultations to commence in September for 8 weeks.
<b>Projects Programme</b>	An update on the Projects Programme was given. Noted the joint Village Hall Trustees/Parish Council progress on the village hall extension options. External funding is being looked into and District planners advice sought.
<b>Safer Neighbourhood team</b>	Following a query the Parish Council has been in contact with the local SNT police regarding allegations concerning HGVs parked overnight at the Bridge lay-by <i>[foul waste and prostitution].</i>
<b>Highways issues</b>	Parish Council will contact Highways Dept. re. road signage on sharp bend at Stratton Hall and also on extending the 30mph speed limit on Bridge Road to Levington Bridge.
<b>Stour and Orwell Draft Management Strategy</b>	Noted the Parish Council's response to the Draft Management Strategy and particular references to the important involvement of parish councils and noise pollution by jet skis.

<b>Planning Applications</b>	(1)	Erection of a covered workshop, Walk Farm. <i>[Case not yet determined]</i>
	(2)	Site for erection of proposed agricultural barn to be used for the housing of tractors, other estate equipment and a sawmill - Levington Hall, <i>[Planning permission has been granted by the District Council on 15/7/09]</i>
	(3)	Construction of swimming pool and pool house; improvements to existing outbuildings and restoration of a derelict garden pavilion to provide additional sleeping accommodation to the main house; conversion of a former calving shed to a green house and creation of a new water garden - Levington Hall <i>[Planning permission granted by the District Council on 7/8/09]</i>
	(4)	Erection of dwelling and garage, Plot 1 adjoining Walnut Tree Cottages, Bridge Road. <i>[Permission granted by District Council 25/8/09]</i>
	(5)	District Council advised of application for a 'Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence' at 1 Heath Cottages, Old A45 Felixstowe Road. District Council logged info. on their enforcement records and visited the site. They did not deem the current level of activity to be a material change of use but a warning was given that any significant change on the site may require a joint use to that of domestic and business.
	(6)	A query as to whether planning permission is needed in respect of a stable erected on land north of Red House Walk has been passed to the District Council
<b>Correspondence</b>	Various items of correspondence had been received incl. a request from the Editor of the East Anglian Daily Times for more stories which are important within our parish.	
<b>Emergency Planning</b>	Mike Topliss, the District Council's Emergency Plans Officer met with the Parish Council on 12 <sup>th</sup> August to give advice on an Emergency Plan for Levington and Stratton Hall.	
<b>Port of Felixstowe</b>	Cllrs. Pat and David Pryke and Ian Angus are to attend the next meeting of the Local Authority Liaison committee at the Port of Felixstowe.	

## WE SAY FAREWELL TO Pc MIKE CRISP

In October we lose Pc Mike Crisp from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team as he retires from the 'front line'. We have only known Mike for a short while but during that time (despite work-related injuries) he has made many efforts to come and meet Levington residents and has attended most of our Parish Council meetings. He has kept us informed of reported crimes in our area and his contribution has been greatly appreciated. Mike's successor will be introduced to us in due course. But in the meantime, many thanks Mike - we wish you well in your next job - look after that back of yours - and at least you can put on future CVs you 'policed' the ENGLAND village of the year!

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## The July LUNCHEON CLUB SUMMER BUFFET



Once again, the cooks and helpers served a delicious summer buffet with wine and dessert to follow to members of Luncheon Club in the gardens of Elmbank on Bridge Road. Always appreciated by members, our thanks must go to everyone who cooked, served and help set up and take down the marquee to make this one of the year's highlights.

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## LEVINGTON WEBSITE - [www.levington.org](http://www.levington.org)

If you haven't kept back copies of our Parish Council newsletters and want to refer to a past article then don't forget if you have access to the internet you can look on Levington's website [www.levington.org](http://www.levington.org) Here you will find newsletters from Sept 2007. Due to the different format and space available, you can see the newsletter in colour and the photos are enlarged as well! (Also don't forget you can read all past Parish Council minutes from July 2007 plus lots of other information). **KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR VILLAGE WEBSITE!**

## MORE FLOWER SHOW PICTURES



Who says it is ladies only in the kitchen!!  
Barry Young and David Long getting domesticated!



Serious business this judging lark! The two judges

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*[The Editor was on holiday at the time of the Flower Show - well actually getting 'rusty' rather than brown due to the very wet weather experienced down in the South West!. Therefore she would like to place on record her grateful thanks to Doreen Ralph for the Flower Show reporting and to Sally Long for the excellent photographs which have been used throughout this newsletter].*

As our November newsletter may not be distributed in time here is early notification for your diary of our special village Act of Remembrance



***EVENSONG AND REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE***

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER - ST. PETER'S CHURCH**

**DO COME ALONG** and join what has now become our traditional **VILLAGE PROCESSION** to the church following the Royal British Legion Standard bearer.

**MUSTER AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 2.45PM.**

At St. Peter's Church poppy wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial. There will then be a 2 minute silence before going into church for the 3.00pm service.

**Refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**Short '*ARMISTICE DAY*' service**

At 10.55am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November there will be a short 'Armistice Day' service at the War Memorial in Levington churchyard. If you can, do come and join in the two minute silence and short remembrance with other villagers.



**ADOPT-A-BEACH** next foreshore clear up is on **SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Meet 10.00am at the Creek car park**

We hope to see many of you at this next clear up where everyone will pitch in to clean the foreshore and creek area and leave "nothin" but a litter free riverside. Do come along if you can spare an hour or two. Every little helps!

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING (update on progress)**

Nacton Parish Council have been progressing the proposals for six affordable houses to be build on land north of The Cottage, The Street, Nacton with the District Council and Hastoe Housing Association Ltd and planning permission was granted on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Of the six dwellings four will be two-bedroomed and two will be three-bedroomed. There will be a footpath link, car ports and new access from The Street. The tenure of the properties will be split with four being offered for rent and two dwellings for shared ownership. Local people, especially families, who meet the needs criteria will benefit from this housing scheme that allows them to live in the village that may otherwise not be obtainable on the open market. The housing will be allocated to persons nominated from the Common Housing Register operated by Suffolk Coastal District Council or any housing waiting list taking its place. Those allocated a house must have lived in Nacton or Levington for the preceding three years, or have a place of work in either village, or have parents or close family who have lived in either village for the preceding three years, or can demonstrate some other local connection to the satisfaction of the District Council, or was forced within the preceding three years to move from Nacton or Levington because of a lack of suitable accommodation.

If there are no persons who qualify under the Nacton/Levington conditions then the Registered Social Landlord can allocate on the same basis to person(s) with an interest in the adjoining parishes to Nacton and Levington.

Levington and Stratton Hall parish councillors have recently seen the latest paperwork, trees survey and building plans. As we have reiterated before, those with a local connection, wishing to live locally, wishing to rent or have shared ownership of the new houses must be registered on the District Council housing list (the Common Housing Register).



## LEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Next meeting** 7.30pm Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall. It's 'Turkish Cuisine' with Jennifer Gibbs. Visitors very welcome. And finally, Levington WI members were saddened to learn the passing of Judith Pope. She had been a long time member of our local WI and, indeed, was one of its founder members becoming its first Secretary at the formation meeting in November 1960. Later becoming Treasurer.

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### ***NOTE DATE FOR LEVINGTON'S HARVEST SUPPER***



**ANNUAL HARVEST SUPPER**  
*2 course meal plus table games, raffle, fun bingo*  
**VILLAGE HALL - 7.30pm - THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER**

Tickets available from Rosanne Girling (659720) and  
Doreen Ralph (659398) from 1<sup>st</sup> October

**(£6.00 adults; £2.00 under 12s)**

Bring your own drinks - Proceeds towards Flower Show  
funds

The ever popular HARVEST SUPPER was a sell out last year so do get your tickets in good time.

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### **CHORAL EVENSONG - 6.30pm Sunday 11 October**

Once in a while, for those who enjoy music combined with Evensong, there is the opportunity to come to St. Peter's Church to enjoy such a service. The next Sung Evensong is at 6.30pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. The service will be taken by Stephen Harvey with Choir. The churchwardens invite you to come along and experience a Choral Evensong in the traditional manner. Everyone welcome.

## ONE WAY OF GETTING TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL SERGEANT FROM OUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Our friendly Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Peter Street called into the Exhibition in the village hall over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> August to check everything was going OK and valuable exhibits all safe and sound. He then joined in the fun by trying out a WWII police helmet. And no, Peter is not demoted to Special Constable (well not yet!) as the initials on the hat suggest!



Peter declared the tin hat was more protective than some that are issued nowadays albeit heavy to wear! Thanks Peter - it was good to see you in and around the village and taking part in the community that you police. Your pop-in visit was much appreciated.

## LEVINGTON'S HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

10.00am Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October



Harvest Festival is a wonderful time of the year in the village calendar. The colours are rich and warm and brighten up even the dullest of autumn days. Vibrant yellows, burning oranges, reds and browns are abundant.

The harvest flowers and vegetables will be seen again in St. Peter's Church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October decorating the window sills and around the Font. The altar will be ablaze with flowers and adorned by a large bread harvest sheaf. The organ rails no doubt will have their usual corn sheaves tied to them and greenery such as hops and vines from local gardens. In past years, the pulpit has looked resplendent in its necklace of greenery and threaded bright red crab apples. Villagers always seem to be able to create that natural country feel and glorious autumn colours reflect the idea of gathering in for the harvest. So do come and join in the traditional Harvest Festival service if you can and if you would like to donate fruit, vegetables or flowers (either cut or as an arrangement) then you would be most welcome to bring them along to church on Saturday morning 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 10.00am. Last year the Salvation Army and St. Elisabeth Hospice benefited from the produce donated.



**SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

**COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

**Next meeting is at 6.00pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>  
September**

**in LEVINGTON Village Hall**

At this meeting the public have the opportunity to hear what is happening in our local area and to ask questions of the local police. You are invited to attend.

## MORE FLOWER SHOW PICTURES



A delighted Rosanne Girling receiving the Cookery and Handicraft Cup from the Rev, Canon Geoffrey Grant.



Peggy Cole MBE, who was one of the judges this year admiring the entry of Melissa Matthews in the Children's classes.



Melissa receiving 'Desmond Duck' for the best children's painting

**MOTHERS UNION/WI and friends OUTING TO EAST  
RUSTON OLD VICARAGE GARDENS IN NORFOLK -  
FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



*Can you spot the gate crashers!*

Caroline Young organised a very successful coach trip from the village to the East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens in Norfolk on 7<sup>th</sup> August. A coffee stop at the Pulham Market Garden Centre on the A140 was welcome before travelling onwards to the Olive Branch pub at Tunstead. Here was enjoyed a superb meal and everyone, having got nicely settled and refreshed, had to drag themselves away as the delights of East Ruston Gardens still awaited a short journey away. The gardens are a feast of formal design, decorative exuberance and brilliant planting. - one garden leading into the next. They are close to the sea - there were glimpses of Happisburgh Lighthouse and Church - but were well protected by planted windbreaks making it possible to grow remarkably tender plants. The separate gardens included Tropical Borders, Mediterranean Garden, Sunken Garden, Autumn Borders, Kitchen Garden, Desert Wash area all varying strongly in mood There were sculptures and lavishly planted pots. *And the extra visitors?* They were Paul and Olann Ridewood who used to live in Levington before they moved to Norfolk. They had read about the trip to Ruston in our July Parish Council newsletter and thought they would come along and surprise everyone - which they did! It was good to see them, and looking so well, as they are still missed by many in the village.



## JUDITH POPE

We sadly report the passing of Judith Pope of Red House Walk who died peacefully in Ipswich Hospital on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July after some time of declining health. She managed to stay in her own home until her last short stay in hospital with the invaluable help of daily carers, her family, her friend(s) and helpful neighbours. The funeral service was held at St. James Church on Landseer Road Ipswich followed by committal at Ipswich Old Cemetery. Judith (and her late husband Jim) came to Levington in the mid-1950s and were one of the first couples to move into one of the newly built Fisons houses in Red House Walk. Jim came to work at Fisons as a Field Supervisor in the Agriculture Experimental Section. Before they came to Red House Walk the village recorder recalls how Judith and Jim lived in a caravan at Walk Farm. Judith was a long-time member of Levington Women's Institute. In fact she was one of its founder members and became the first Secretary at the formation of the new WI in November 1960. She later took on the office of Treasurer in 1965. Despite not being able to attend meetings with her declining health she kept up her membership until last year. Our condolences go to son Alex and daughter Jackie and family.

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## ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UP

For your diaries, the village churchyard Autumn clear-up morning is planned for:

**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER from 9.30am until 12 noon.**

Volunteers to help with cutting the grass, trimming back shrubs; weeding etc. would be very welcome. Please bring garden tools if you have them. Mid-morning refreshments are provided and no doubt those who want to will divert to The Ship afterwards for a thirst quencher after their exertions.

**[Marian Rose Tel: 659638 Friends of St Peter's]**

## MORE LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW PICTURES



A kiss for Show Day secretary Christine Bullard from Michael Matthews who was receiving the Allerton Rose Bowl for the village 'Best Flower Garden'.



Diane Willsted receiving the Rookyard Shield for the 'Best Fuchsia' in Show.



The 'recorders' Derek Girling and Bob Hardwick photographing and filming the Flower Show for the village archives.

**TWO GARDENING CLUB MEETINGS COMING UP**



**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB**

**September meeting:**

**'GARDEN PONDS - for wildlife or ornamental'**  
Talk accompanied by a slide show presentation from Gordon Popplewell (of A12 Aquatics) to cover all aspects of water gardening from pond design & construction to fish farming

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
in the Village Hall - EVERYONE WELCOME**

*[Gardening Club contacts are Marian Rose 659638  
and Caroline Young 659547].*

RHS  
Britain  
in Bloom



**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB**

**October meeting:**

**Illustrated talk by our own resident Bob Hardwick**  
(Bob is well known for his horticultural expertise in the village  
and is an Anglia in Bloom judge)

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
in the Village Hall - EVERYONE WELCOME**

*[Gardening Club contacts as above].*



**British Summer Time ends  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

As usual, remember to put your clocks back an hour on Saturday night 24<sup>th</sup> October as British Summer Time comes to an end. Autumnal days to come, dark nights!! Soon be Christmas!

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*The next  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING*

*is in the Village Hall on  
WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009*

*[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  
Pat Pryke 659554  
Linda Sharp 659771  
Jane Timmins 659298  
Parish Clerk - Jean Ruthen 659800

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

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Village Hall Bookings (David and Mary Wake) (01473) 659627  
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Bob Hardwick) (01473) 659631  
Area Police Beat Officer Pc Mike Crisp (01473) 613500  
Safer Neighbourhood Team/Sgt. Peter Street (01473) 613500

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