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LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL

**PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**



SEPTEMBER 2011

Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year 2008

www.levington.org

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Dear Villager - Welcome to the September 2011 edition of the Parish Council newsletter and a warm welcome to any new residents. We hope you have a happy stay and join in community life in Levington.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)

All should know that the two wind turbines planning applications received by the Parish Council have been 'withdrawn' by the applicants having taken into account the deeply felt concerns of the community at the recent village 'open' meeting. Many villagers have since expressed their appreciation at the decisions taken. We have thanked, on your behalf, the management and Board of Directors at OOCL Ltd. and Mr. Albert Scardino of Levington Hall for their understanding and for coming to this decision so soon after the village meeting. We look forward to continuing our positive relations with them.

8 years on and this is the 50th issue of the Parish Council newsletter! Who would have thought it? All those years ago, an idea born of councillors' desires to communicate better, began a bi-monthly free magazine delivery to every household in the parish. So we are proud to continue with this our 50th edition and we look forward to many more years serving up a mix of news and information. Each issue regularly has at least the equivalent of 14 A4 pages packed to the gunnels, in fact it can take some 'shoe-horning in' to make it all fit at times and sometimes we have to go up to 16 pages! On behalf of all residents, thanks to Pat Pryke, our Editor, for this wonderful achievement. Happy 50th!!

This year we have had to move the normal September parish council meeting into the last week of August for councillor availability. Summer will soon be leaving us and there could be a long winter to come! But before then to cheer us up there is the opportunity to celebrate with the traditional village Harvest Festival (2nd October) at the church and the Harvest Supper (7th October) in the Village Hall.

[David Long - Parish Chairman]

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR WIND TURBINES IN LEVINGTON from OOCL Ltd. and Levington Hall

The Parish Council leafleted every household and business within Levington and Stratton to ensure everyone was aware of two planning applications that were received recently: They were:

Two 27.1m wind turbines on the OOCL Ltd site and two 27.1m wind turbines on Levington Hall land.

A village meeting was arranged for 17th August in the Village Hall to hear resident's views. It was called because these were the first planning applications for wind turbines in the village and were planned to be sited within and close to the protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB). They would also be in close proximity to each other and seen by several dwellings and local businesses.



[The Village Hall starting to fill up for the open village meeting]

The Village Hall was full to capacity with villagers, councillors from neighbouring parishes and the two applicants, Matthew Austen for OOCL Ltd and Mr. Albert Scardino for Levington Hall. The villagers came to express their views on the impact the four wind turbines would make on the local community and the two applicants to answer questions.

The meeting was chaired by David Long, the Parish Council Chairman. There was frank, open discussion with many questions asked as well as keenly felt concerns raised. It was clear many residents had looked at the applications in detail and had researched government and District Council guidelines. A show of hands at the end of the meeting indicated overwhelming rejection of the applications. Everyone's views were very helpful to the Parish Council.

Very soon after the village meeting Matthew Austen informed the Parish Council that OOCL Ltd. had 'withdrawn' their application. A letter was received from the Managing Director Mr. Peter Ip to say they had made this decision in the interest of community relationship. They took the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to community responsibility as well as reducing carbon emission. The Parish Council responded by thanking OOCL for the understanding of the widespread and deeply felt concern of Levington's community. It was to OOCL's credit they had come so promptly to their decision to 'withdraw'. There had always been very welcome interaction between OOCL and village residents and we look forward to that continuing in the future.

On 24th August, the Parish Council were also notified by Mr. Albert Scardino that he had also 'withdrawn' his planning application. In his letter to the Parish Council Mr. Scardino said in the interest of restoring a degree of harmony, he had decided to withdraw the application for now without prejudice and to consider alternative approaches to generating the kind of energy the two turbines would have supplied. As before he would decide to undertake projects that appear to meet planning criteria but with less intrusiveness to his neighbours. The Parish Council responded by thanking Mr. Scardino for this much appreciated action.



ANGLIA IN BLOOM 2011



[David Gilkes, Bob Hardwick and Barry Young with the judges]

[photo contributed by Louise Mann]

For a third year Levington entered the Small Village category of Anglia in Bloom for villages with a population of no more than 300 on the electoral roll. Fortunately the weather was fine and judges, Nigel Bloxham from Fordham and David White from Chatteris duly arrived at 3.00pm on Friday 22nd July and were welcomed in the village hall with tea and biscuits. There then followed a brief illustrated presentation to the judges reviewing Levington's 'In Bloom' activities and achievements over the past year, the judges having been provided in advance with more detailed record in the form of a 30 page Portfolio. With an allotted time of one hour the judges were escorted on a tour of the village, first by car up Bridge Road to the old A45 and then on foot from the village hall down to St Peters church and the Ship and back via Pilots Way and Trickers wood.

At selected points on the itinerary the judges were met at the Almshouses by Helen Sealey, by Matthew Austin (OOCL), and Peter Vaughan (Scotts) to whom thanks are due for meeting the judges and kindly giving up their time.

David Gilkes also very kindly conducted the party on a comprehensive tour of the church and churchyard. Clearly enjoying his first visit to Levington Nigel Bloxham, a professional photographer, took the opportunity of recording a number of scenes from viewpoints on this part of the route.

Judging over and having appeared to go well the party returned to the village hall to enjoy some delicious refreshments of sandwiches and cakes provided by Caroline, Diana and Diane. Grateful thanks are also due to Barry Young for providing transport; to Louise Mann for taking photographs; to Ian Angus who ensured that not a piece of litter was in sight anywhere en route; to all those who helped on judging day and not least to everyone in the village community for making our village so presentable by keeping their house frontages and gardens neat and tidy and by looking after our environment as a whole.

All that remains now is to await the judging results, which are to be announced at the Anglia in Bloom Awards ceremony to take place in Colchester on Tuesday 13th September. Despite clashing with the Luncheon Club a small group of the Levington 'In Bloom' team will be representing the village on the day with the hope of returning with favourable news.



Levington WI meets on Wednesday 14th September 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Ann Day - an Ipswich Tourist Information Centre 'Blue Badge' lady who gives various guided walks around the centre of Ipswich and around the Waterfront. Her talk is entitled 'The Heart of Ipswich'.

Ladies do come and join us - visitors and new members always welcome.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Vehicle security

Over the summer holidays police are urging people to ensure that they protect their vehicles, especially when leaving them in secluded locations.

- Don't leave anything in your car, even in the boot. Do you really need your handbag/sports bag/rucksack when walking the dog? If you do, take it with you.
- If you have a sat nav, remove it and the holder and wipe away the suction marks.
- Lock all doors and shut all windows when you leave
- If you see anything suspicious, call police immediately.
- If you have an alarm, use it.

If you see any incidents or suspicious people hanging around parked cars report it to Ipswich Police on 01473 613500 and always dial 999 in an emergency or if a crime is in progress.

Rogue traders - Office of Fair Trading (OFT) campaign.

Rogue doorstep trading continues to be an ongoing problem in the UK and decisions made on the doorstep may result in agreeing to work or a service that isn't necessary, of a poor standard, much more expensive than quoted or not done at all - leaving you out of pocket and often in need of more expense to set the problem right. The campaign aims to highlight this issue and ensure that homeowners take the time to consider their decisions carefully, with the support of family and friends. The OFT offers the following advice on how people can avoid being scammed by rogue doorstep traders:

- If a trader knocks at your door do not agree to on the spot house repairs, or sign anything on the spot.
- Be wary of special offers or warnings that your house is unsafe.
- Do not make snap decisions. Take time to talk to someone you trust before you make a decision.

If in doubt contact **Consumer Direct** on **08454 040506** or www.consumerdirect.gov.uk Any threats on the doorstep from callers should be reported to the police immediately.

[Bob Hardwick, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator]



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

The October meeting is an evening out! Come and join History Club members for an evening visit to the nearby Ipswich Transport Museum on

SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER

for '**WHEELS BY LAMPLIGHT**'

a special atmospheric evening where the Museum is illuminated by oil and paraffin lamps

Meet 6.45pm at the Museum on

Cobham Road, Ipswich (just off Felixstowe Road beyond St. Augustine's Church). If you require a lift please contact Pat Pryke on 659554 who will arrange car sharing

As this is a Museum 'special event' the cost is

Adult £6.50; Concessions £5.50

(Please note the Museum cannot admit children to this event)



EVENING CONCERT

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER at 6.30pm

in St. Peter's Church, Levington

MUSIC FOR FLUTE AND HARPSICHORD

Tickets £5 from Diana Hawtin (659946) or on the door. Wine and nibbles afterwards.

Although Julie plays on a modern flute their repertoire focuses on Baroque music and some early Classical pieces. The programme comprises music by J S Bach, C P E Bach, Handel, Michel Blavet and Haydn and will feature Flute Sonatas, Harpsichord solos and popular Baroque tunes arranged for flute and harpsichord. Come and enjoy a musical night out within the lovely surrounds of the village church.



**AN ILLUSTRATED TALK on
THE WILDLIFE OF THE ORWELL ESTUARY**

by Mick Wright, Sites Manager,
Suffolk Wildlife Trust

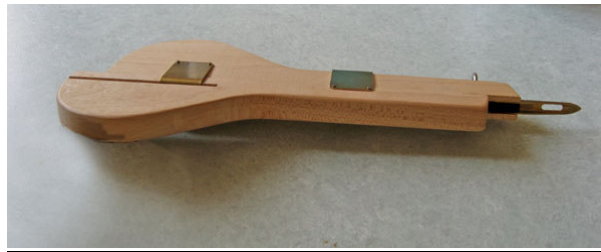
to include Levington's wildlife plus conservation into the future

7.30pm in Levington Village Hall

Tuesday 18th October

[Free entrance for this talk]

THAT MYSTERY ARTICLE!



Did you guess what our mystery object was featured in the last newsletter? Give yourself a pat on the back if you worked out it was a rug making tool because that's exactly what it was.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE!

Another mystery object was handed round at the July Luncheon Club for members to guess what it was. What do you think this is?

Answer in the November issue!



CHURCH NOTICES - coming up

Sunday 4th September

10.00am FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday 10th September

From, 10.00am to 5.00pm

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE

Sunday 11th September

6.30pm EVENING CONCERT FOR FLUTE AND HARPSICHORD

Sunday 18th September

11.00am MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 25th September

10.00am ALL AGE WORSHIP SERVICE with Stephen Harvey

Sunday 2nd October

10.00am HARVEST FESTIVAL taken by Edna Collins

(Harvest gifts welcome Saturday morning in church or at service)

Sunday 9th October

6.30pm EVENSONG

Sunday 16th October

11.00am MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday 23rd October

10.00am ALL AGE WORSHIP SERVICE with Stephen Harvey

Sunday 30th October

No service at Levington but All Saints Benefice Service at Bucklesham
taken by Rev. Helen Davy and Edna Collins

PARISH NOTICES - coming up

Every Monday 10.00am-11.00am **COFFEE HOUR** in the Village Hall

Sunday 11th September

6.30pm CONCERT FOR FLUTE AND HARPSICHORD (St. Peter's Church)

Tuesday 13th September

12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB - (Booked places only - contact Jo on 659509)

Wednesday 14th September

7.30pm LEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Talk by Ann Day on 'The Heart of Ipswich'

Saturday 17th September

10.00am 'FORESHORE CLEAR UP MORNING'

Meet at Creek car park at 10.00am

Wednesday 21st September

7.30pm LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB 'Roses' with Simon White

Thursday 22nd September

7.30pm LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Talk by Dr. John Blatchly on "Good ideas for historical research"

Friday 7th October

7.30pm HARVEST SUPPER in the Village Hall (booked places only)

Tuesday 11th October

12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB

(Booked places only - contact Jo Wenham on 659509)

Wednesday 12th October

7.30pm LEVINGTON WI - Catering the Royal Way with Patrick Thompson

Saturday 15th October

7.00pm LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB visit to Ipswich Transport Museum (meet at Museum)

Tuesday 18th October

7.30pm ILLUSTRATED TALK on 'The Wildlife of the Orwell Estuary' by Mick Wright from Suffolk Wildlife Trust (V. Hall)

Tuesday 8th November -

7.15pm PARISH COUNCIL meeting (in the Village Hall)

SUFFOLK/IPSWICH HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - 10th-11th SEPTEMBER Including 'VIEW SUFFOLK'S GREEN BUILDINGS'

'GREENWAYS', BRIDGE ROAD, LEVINGTON

As part of the 'Heritage Open Days' weekend there is the opportunity to visit green buildings for free, talk to their owners about what they love about them and find out how they enjoy lower energy bills. 'Greenways' owned by Mike and Nancy Matthews is one of the 'green buildings'. This timber-framed house has been designed to be both environmentally friendly and healthy. It has high thermal mass, enhanced insulation properties and is self sufficient in terms of water supply/treatment. Where possible use of artificial materials is avoided.

Tours of 'Greenways' are by appointment only.

Times: Saturday 10th September, 11am, 2pm and 4pm.

To book go to the Events page of www.greensuffolk.org/sqbn If you have any problems accessing this or don't have a computer then we are sure Mike and Nancy will be pleased to help.

The Heritage Open Days event, organised by The Ipswich Society, provides a chance to see inside historical buildings, many of which are not normally accessible to the general public. Here are some of the buildings you could go and visit: Ipswich town centre and dockside churches; the Willis building; Pykenham gatehouse in Northgate Street; Isaac Lords grade listed building, University Campus, Suffolk New College; the Magistrates Court; Ipswich School; Christchurch Mansion and Ipswich Museum; Arlington's; and the Ipswich School. Leaflets available from the Ipswich Tourist Information Centre or download one from www.ipswich.gov.uk search for Heritage Open Days.



IMPORTANT NEWS ON THE CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME IF YOU USE THE NATIONAL EXPRESS COACHES

Up until now National Express coaches have operated a scheme which provides up to half price travel for over 60 year olds and disabled people through Government funding. The Government has announced that this funding will end on 31 October 2011 as part of its spending cuts programme. While National Express are looking to introduce a replacement scheme, without the government funding it is not possible to make discounts as high and the cost of travel will increase for those people. National Express has written to the Government to ask that they reconsider this decision. They have also written to a number of MPs to raise their concerns. Many MPs have told them they agree and have written to ministers at the Department for Transport to ask them whether they have considered the potential impact on eligible passengers' ability to travel. From many letters and emails, National Express say older and disabled people rely on the half price fares. Some have also expressed concern that without it, they may not be able to travel. If you share those concerns, perhaps you could write to, or email, your local MP to encourage them to raise your concern with the Department for Transport.

Contact: Suffolk Coastal MP Therese Coffey:

by email therese.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

by letter: either to House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or to National Hall, Sun Lane,
Woodbridge, IP12 1EG.

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 31ST AUGUST 2011

The Parish Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors, Pc Paul Smith and four residents to the meeting.

County Councillor (Mrs O'Brien).

Mrs. O'Brien reported that Mark Bee, Leader of SCC, has outlined his main priority for Suffolk as working more closely with other councils/ public sector organisations by breaking down the barriers across the public sector and working in partnership to remove duplication. After a public consultation an approach has been approved that will secure the future of library services in Suffolk and will lead to the libraries being transferred to a new central organisation. A further consultation will take place on how mobile libraries can be restructured so that the service can be retained but still make the necessary savings. The energy-from-waste facility, which will turn Suffolk's non-recyclable waste into energy, has been given the go-ahead with the plant to be built at Great Blakenham. By diverting this waste away from polluting landfill sites, the county council will have a much greener solution for Suffolk's waste, and will avoid paying increasing amounts of landfill tax, thus saving around £350m over the 25 years of the contract. As the current Chairman of SCC, Mrs. O'Brien had undertaken various engagements in the County over past few weeks.

District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer).

Mrs. Falconer had been involved in the Local Development Framework Reviewed Core Strategy at the full Council meeting on 27th July at Trinity Park. Partnership working between Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal continued to be successful with at least £4.2m savings. Mrs. Falconer had enjoyed being one of the Suffolk Coastal Village of the Year judges this year with Boyton being the winning village. She had visited the Waklyns Agroforestry Farm (a research farm into diverse systems) and Landguard Fort getting an insight into the Fort, the nature reserve and the Museum along with 40 local businesses and tourism partners. Suffolk Coastal District Council remain committed to keeping litter down and the latest help are free Stubbi pouches that can safely extinguish a cigarette and store up to five ends until you can get to a bin to dispose of them. Suffolk Coastal held young people's activities over the summer holidays one of which was 'Operation Camouflage' - a 3 day camp at Rock Barracks where everything from Army challenge assault courses to book designing, trampolining and dance mats were on offer.

Finance Issues	<p>Bank balances have been reconciled to bank statements to 31 July 2011. Noted £100 payment to the District Council for the May election costs. Despite, in the event, no parish council election, Levington has had to contribute this amount towards the District Council's overall administrative costs for running the Suffolk elections. Noted income expected in September of £2,750 being the second instalment of the precept from the District Council.</p> <p>The internal audit had been completed successfully. The external audit return was sent to BDO for 22nd July - the pre-booked date. The Parish Clerk had chased for an update. Apart from querying why a few items were not on the fixed assets list we are expected to receive a clean report after the parish clerk explained that those items were considered to be consumables.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk's salary and expenses were approved.</p>
Correspondence	<p>Since the last Parish Council meeting the Parish Clerk and councillors had dealt with a large volume of e-mails , paperwork and correspondence not least to do with planning applications. Of note was the receipt of the District Council's 'Reviewed Core Strategy consultation documents which the Parish Council will respond to by the deadline of 14 October.</p>
Reports from Councillors	<p>Cllr. Angus gave an update on the vacancies at the Almshouses and some repair work needed to two of the properties. In a goodwill gesture, that was appreciated Mr. Derek Eley, near neighbour, had agreed to put up a new fence at the back of two of the Almshouses.</p> <p>Cllr. Pat Pryke reported on local and National Express bus/transport issues.</p> <p>Cllr. Hopkins had followed up residents' concerns about one public footpath in the area.</p>
County Councillor Locality Budget	<p>County Councillor, Mrs Patricia O'Brien has once again kindly donated £500 towards a project or equipment in the parish in this financial year.</p>

Planning Applications	(1)	C11/1045 Holly Lodge extension <i>[District Council approved 8/7/11]</i>
	(2)	C11/1291 Gazebo at Scotts <i>[Parish Council supported and District Council approved 11/8/11]</i>
	(3)	C11/1487 - erection of single storey rear extension at 4 Barrack Row, Church Lane <i>[Parish Council supported on 29/7/11 and permission granted by Suffolk Coastal District Council on 18/8/11]</i>
	(4)	C/11/1771 - erection of two 20kw 20m wind turbines (overall height 27.1m) <i>[Planning application withdrawn by the applicants OOCL Ltd. Levington on 19th August 2011]</i>
	(5)	C/11/1650 - erection of two 20kw 20m wind turbines (overall height 27.1m) <i>[Planning application withdrawn by the applicant Mr. Albert Scardino, Levington Hall on 24th August 2011]</i>
	(6)	C11/1686 & 1687 Hill Cottage. Change of use of land to residential cartilage. Erection of detached apiary preparation area/storage building and Retention and Completion of works to boundary wall as amended Scheme to that approved under C10/1026 & C10/1027. <i>[The Parish Council supported on 24/8/11 but raised concerns with the District Council at application being made post start of work and reminded them of previous planning procedure complaint whereby the Parish Council was not made aware of later changes agreed by the District Council.]</i>
	(7)	C11/00081/TPO Tree Work at Elm Bank, Bridge Road <i>[Supported by Parish Council 24/8/11]</i>
Planning Control	The Barn at Church Lane - Resident's enquiry re. alleged breach of planning control raised with the District Council. Reply received that they will respond within 56 days.	
New Layby outside the Almshouses	More detailed report elsewhere in this newsletter The County Councillor, Patricia O'Brien, had been able to authorise £4,500 from her 'Quality of Life' Fund towards the cost of the scheme.	

VILLAGE FORUM:

(1) Mr. Bob Hardwick commended the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk for the way they had handled the wind turbine planning applications. He said this was appreciated by everyone in the village.

(2) Mr. Bob Hardwick raised the issue of flooding outside the Almshouses with regard to the new parking bay. *[The Parish Chairman replied the issue and had been raised both in correspondence and at a site visit with the Highways Engineer].*

POLICE REPORT received from Pc. Paul Smith

There have been three reported crimes between 6th July and 30th August 2011. (1) Overnight 20th-22nd July at farm location Quad bike stolen from within rear of barn removed via access road to Marina - CCTV enquiry negative - no further ongoing enquiries. (2) Lunchtime 7th August at the Marina two identified offenders have stolen two used batteries - ongoing enquiries and arrest imminent. (3) During morning 17th August at field next to Levington Hall, motor vehicle entered and rucksack stolen - no CCTV or ongoing enquiries. Apart from the above three crimes there was an incident in the village on 17th July involving motor vehicle/anti-social behaviour dealt with by means of Section 59 warning Police Reform Act 2002. After warning, the second incident results in seizure and returned only after payment of fine. Warning remains with both the driver and the vehicle.

FELIXSTOWE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

County Councillor, Patricia O'Brien had reported to the Parish Council that Suffolk County Council Cabinet has approved the proposals within the Integrated Risk Management Plan for the Fire and Rescue Service. This plan contained all the proposals for savings agreed in February's budget, but with one exception - ending the full-time crewing of the Felixstowe Fire Station. Having considered the consultation feedback, the recommended proposals for Felixstowe were changed, so that they no longer involve stopping the full-time crewing arrangements immediately, but instead reduce the full-time firefighter cover in stages over the next few years with consultation and review at each stage. This was welcomed as it is this Fire Station which provides the first response service to our parishes, and the Parish Council had previously expressed concern about it losing its full-time status.

WORTHY CUP WINNERS AT THE FLOWER SHOW



[Doreen Ralph won the Joyce Bugg Trophy, the Judith Pope Memorial Trophy and the Len Wenham trophy for her entries in the Handicraft, Cookery and Rich Scones classes)



[Rosanne Girling won the Jim Pope Memorial Trophy for the most points in Div. II Flowers]

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALMHOUSES LAYBY on Bridge Road

The construction of a layby opposite the Almshouses has been a project that parish councillors have wanted to complete for some time. They have been working closely with our County Councillor Mrs. Patricia O'Brien and Suffolk County Council's Highways officers. A 'design' has been produced by SCC Highways staff and the construction work will be supervised by them using approved SCC contractors.

Parish councillors recently met with Tim Osborn, SCC Highways Engineer at the site to discuss the design, length and types of material and edging to be used for the layby. They also discussed the issues of local flooding in this area. It was agreed the most appropriate material would be the use of 'grassgrid'/'grasscrete' as the surfacing to provide hard standing but which should still allow drainage. 'Grasscrete' (concrete slabs with holes that allow grass to grow through) would be self-draining and seen as both a visually sympathetic solution as well as an environmental paving one. We hope that the work will enhance rather than detract from the appearance of the area as it can get so muddy and rutted especially in the autumn and winter time. From a design/durability point of view SCC would prefer to see standard kerbing so that the 'grasscrete' is securely retained.

After the meeting revised quotes were received. These vary between £3,500 and £4,800 depending on the length of the layby and types of material and edging used. At the Parish Council meeting on 31st August, parish councillors agreed to accept the design and quote for £4,800 and will advise SCC so that the work can be commenced shortly. The cost will be met by £300 from the parish budget and we are delighted that County Councillor Patricia O'Brien has allocated £4,500 towards this project from her SCC 'Quality of Life' scheme.

Once again, we look to the completion of another successful village project - joint working between Suffolk County Council, our County Councillor and the parish council will enable the scheme to be completed with just a small contribution from parish funds.

Message from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils

DALE FARM TRAVELLER EVICTIONS: THE IMPACT ON SUFFOLK

As you might be aware, eviction notices have been served on families living at England's largest travellers' site. Basildon Council had given people living on 51 unauthorised pitches at Dale Farm, Essex, until the end of August to leave. More than 400 travellers currently live at the former scrap yard. This site has been developed by this particular travelling community since 2001. The travelling community at this site are concerned that they are being made homeless. This has led to Suffolk communities considering the potential impact of hundreds of travellers on the move and looking for alternative sites. Suffolk, as a neighbouring county, is one of the obvious options for the travellers at Dale Farm. Communities will look to local town and parish councils both to be prepared for any foreseeable eventuality and also to help resolve any issues that rise as a result of travellers moving into their area.

Message from the Parish Council It would be prudent for all local householders and landowners to assess whether they have any vulnerable sites on their land and to secure their property if possible. For your information, and if you wish to report anything, the Parish Council has been asked to pass on to you the contact details below:

Suffolk County Council's traveller liaison Officer Keren Wright, email: keren.wright@suffolk.gov.uk or ring 07733 302806

Chief Inspector Paul Bedford ring Suffolk Constabulary 01473 613500.

And, of course you can always contact the Parish Council.

MORE ON THE LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW



The Allen family from Bridge Road arriving with their exhibits for the Flower Show. The children entered several of the children's classes and did really well with Tess winning the much coveted 'Desmond Duck' trophy for the 'Best Child's Exhibit'. It's obviously going to be much loved!

Other successes in the children's classes were:

Marigold competition - Oscar Girling
Sunflower competition - Daniel Ringland
A picture (my favourite animal) - Tess Allen
Children's handicraft - Tess Allen
Miniature garden - Kerry Last
A vegetable animal - Lauren Byford
6 fairy cakes - Kerry Last
A decorated biscuit - Lauren Byford
Front cover design for next year's brochure - Erin Keeble for the 10-15 year olds and Joby Howe for the 9 yrs and under)

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST (SWT) EVENING WALK Tuesday 12th July



Villagers were taken on an evening walk by Mick Wright (SWT) and Trazar Astley-Reid, Suffolk Estuaries Officer.

Setting off from the head of Levington Creek they went to look at the wildlife, habitat, and coastal problems such as erosion and footpath maintenance and how we need to work together to safeguard this treasured area of countryside. Although a cloudy evening they were rewarded with sightings of black tailed godwits, kingfisher, black headed gulls, avocets, marsh harriers, egret, avocets and a couple of deer. The group noticed the erosion of the salt marsh in places and heard of plans to improve this if funding becomes available. Unusual and rare plants were pointed out and Mick explained the Orwell estuary supports rich and diverse wildlife and is afforded protection due to its international importance. The hinterland grazing marshes and salt marshes provide habitat for over wintering geese, ducks, wading birds and fish attracted by vast numbers of invertebrates living in the mudflats. Many migrant over-wintering birds arrive at Levington from the far North, Canada etc.

There are plans to improve vulnerable sections of the footpath between the Creek and the Marina and to introduce a new scrub area nearer the Marina.

LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW - 16TH JULY

Levington Flower Show held on Saturday 16th July was a great success despite it being the worst Show Day weather-wise ever had - rain for most of the day! Nevertheless the attendance was good and the village hall buzzing all the time.

The Show was opened by the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Grant who confessed that he is not really a gardener but does admire the efforts of others. He was presented with a gift of appreciation by Max Ralph (Chairman).

The Flower Show committee was pleased with the entries which were of a very high standard in all Classes. It was good also to have some new names amongst the exhibitors this year and some won prizes which was very encouraging. The children who took part once again excelled themselves but it would be good if more in the village entered next year. Lauren Byford, aged 11, puts items in the adult section as well as the children's classes and wins prizes - well done Lauren.

Due to the inclement weather, the teas had to be served indoors kindly organised by Levington W.I. However, ice-creams, greeting cards, local produced honey, plants and produce all did a brisk trade under cover of gazebos in the outside area. The Flower Show committee were grateful to all who manned these stalls and for the help given putting up and taking down gazebos.

The Grand Draw did extremely well with every prize donated and thanks must go to the various firms who kindly sent a gift in the form of a voucher. The first prize winners, the Baileys, were very pleased with the voucher for a supper for two at Levington Ship!

Christine Bullard and Barry Young were kept busy all afternoon totting up the points in readiness for the prize-giving at 4.30pm. Christine read out the winners and the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Grant presented the Cups and prizes to all the winners.

So ended another successful Levington Flower Show. The committee would welcome new members to join them so if you feel you would like to help do please contact either David Long (Secretary) or Max Ralph (Chairman).
[contributed by Doreen Ralph]



LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

THE CUPS WERE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

John Young Memorial Trophy - Most Points in Division I (Fruit & Vegetables)

1st Michael Sheppard Runner - up - David Dickerson

Jim Pope Memorial Trophy - Most Points in Division II (Flowers)

1st Rosanne Girling Runner-up - Caroline Young

Joyce Bugg Trophy - Most Points in Division III (Handicrafts)

1st Doreen Ralph Runner-up - May Miles

Judith Pope Memorial Trophy - Most Points in Division V (Cookery)

1st Doreen Ralph Runner-up Christine Bullard

Canada Trophy - Most points in Show (Adults)

1st Caroline Young Runner Up - Doreen Ralph & third Rosanne Girling

Levington Long Trophy - Most Points in Show (Children)

Winner - Kerry Last Runner up - Lauren Byford

Len Wenham Cup - Best 6 Rich Scones

1st Doreen Ralph Runner up - Caroline Young

Desmond Duck (Best child's exhibit) - Tess Allen

Levington WI Trophy (Best Flower Garden)

1st Michael Matthews; 2nd Diane Willsteed; 3rd Bert Warne

Max Ralph Trophy (Best Vegetable Garden)

1st Bert Warne; 2nd Michael Sheppard; 3rd Nancy Matthews

Child's Pot Plant (Marigold)

1st Oscar Girling ; 2nd Lauren Byford; 3rd Bailey Girling

Child's Best Garden Grown Plant (Sunflower)

1st Daniel Ringland ; 2nd Sophie Ringland; 3rd Lauren Byford



HARVEST FESTIVAL

CHURCH SERVICE 10.00am SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Help welcomed Saturday morning from 10.00am to decorate the church. Flowers, flower arrangements and produce welcomed to be brought to the church if possible Saturday morning or at the church service



The Annual **HARVEST SUPPER**
in the **Village Hall** will be
7.30pm on **FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER**
EVERYONE WELCOME

Tickets will be available from Rosanne Girling (659720) and Doreen Ralph (659398) at a cost of
£7.00 adults: £2.00 under 12s
Proceeds are to Village Hall funds.

Bring your own drinks

SUCCESS AT LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW



[Grandmother and granddaughter Caroline Young and Kerry Last did very well at the Show. Caroline won the Canada Cup for 'Most points in the Show' and Kerry won 'The Levington Long Cup' for most points in Div. IV - Children's classes]



Marie Bullard was the lucky winner of a Card Organiser Box in the raffle organised by Mel Griggs of Phoenix Trading. Mel brought his greeting cards stall to the Flower Show and seemed happy despite standing outside under his gazebo in the rain for most of the afternoon! Mel always gives a percentage of his takings back to the Flower Show funds. Thanks Mel.

[More Flower Show pictures to be shown at the Christmas Film Show in December]

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES!



THE NEXT FORESHORE CLEAR UP MORNING

is

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

Meet at the Creek car park at 10.00am

We hope you can spare a little time to continue our care of our local environment and to litter pick the foreshore and creek area. **SEE YOU THERE!**

LEVINGTON LUNCHEON CLUB SUMMER BUFFET

Thanks musts go to all the happy band of cooks and helpers for the wonderful prepared and attractively served up Summer Buffet (with wine!) at the August Luncheon Club. This particular lunch is always one of the highlights of the Lunch Club year. So thanks Jo and team from all the members.



The 'Google' van was seen coming through the village on the morning of Wednesday 24th August! Perhaps we shall see, in due course, a new version of Levington 'Street View' on our computer screens.



**SPONSORED BIKE RIDE (or WALK)
SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER from 9.00am-5.00pm
SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**



[Photo contributed by David Pryke]

Could you get on your bike on Saturday 10th September, enjoy cycling between local churches and get friends, family to sponsor you while you do it? Levington would look so different without its much loved St. Peter's Church and so would the landscape of Suffolk without its 500 medieval churches not forgetting the non-conformist chapels and meeting houses etc. In Levington, whether we are churchgoers or not, you only have to look at the size of the Friends of St. Peter's membership to see they feel it is worth the time and money involved to preserve our village church not just for ourselves but for future generations. But preserving old churches is just like the maintenance of the Forth Bridge - always ongoing! So how about doing that extra bit for your local church as well as the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust who organise the yearly sponsored bike ride. The money raised by each Levington participant is shared equally between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and our own St. Peter's Church in the village. Sponsorship forms, maps and details are available from Kevin Taverner (659783). And there is food and drinks along the way!



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB
(Next Event)

Dr. John Blatchly

an expert on the history of Ipswich and Suffolk
makes a welcome return to History Club
with a talk on

***'GOOD IDEAS FOR HISTORICAL
RESEARCH'***

John writes a weekly piece for the East Anglian Daily Times and unearths fascinating historical facts about the Suffolk area. He will share how he finds the information for his numerous articles and will give useful ideas, hints and tips for historical research

7.30pm THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER
in the Village Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

Autumn is nearly here and the days will soon feel cooler and the nights are definitely drawing in. Have you noticed that some shops are already preparing for Christmas? Deplorable some will say as it takes the edge off the excitement and why Christmas is celebrated by extending the season to four months! In the meantime, the new school term awaits our village schoolchildren so we wish them well in their studies.



LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

September meeting:

'ROSES' with Simon White of Beales Roses

7.30pm WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

in the Village Hall - EVERYONE WELCOME

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



LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB

November meeting:

'BASKETS & CONTAINER GARDENING FOR

WINTER' with Peter Chinnery

7.30pm WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER

In the Village Hall - EVERYONE WELCOME

[Gardening Club contacts as above].



British Summer Time ends

Sunday 30th October

As usual, remember to put your clocks **BACK** an hour on Saturday night 29th October as British Summer. An easy way to remember the clock changes - **SPRING** forward - **FALL** backward!

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*The next
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING*

*is in the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 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
Pat Pryke 659554
Parish Clerk - Marian Rose 659638

Mrs. Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor & 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

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